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MISSION NEWS

777 VALENCIA ST. • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110 • 695-8702 • VICTOR MILLER - EDITOR IN CHIEF

Mariela and Celene Flores, Mission Youth Photo Program.



Youth Summit Gives Hope and Direction

300 Attend Anti-Violence Conference

by Gary Byrd

The increasingly dangerous streets of the Mission spurred hundreds of residents to the 2nd Annual Mission Summit organized to find solutions to youth related violence in the Mission.

Those in attendance were motivated to come for various reasons, but personal agendas were set aside for the most part while the crowd participated in a six-hour brainstorming session that ended in dozens of practical answers to the complex problems faced by the Mission youth.

"Many people that live in the Mission came from Central America to escape the violence of the death squads and the armies," said Edward Rodriguez of the Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN), "only to die in violence here."

Eleven young men under the age of 18 were murdered in the Mission in 1992. In the same year, 118 life threatening incidents involving youth were reported in the Mission District and at least another 25 went unreported, according to the San Francisco Police Department. Additionally, the Mission's youngsters were involved in 59 attempted murders and 30 drive-by shootings. In the last eighteen months there have been over two dozen gang related murders in the Mission.

Event organizers were surprised by the turnout which was up 50 percent from 1992 to just over 300 while the number of sponsors quadrupled from last year.

During the summit on June 26th at Horace Mann Middle School the speakers stressed the urgency of a collective action that must be taken by the community as a whole and not independently which often results in duplication of precious time, energy and resources.

Tight economic times have stripped many youth programs bare, but RAP (Real Alternatives Program) and CARECEN managed to secure \$110,000 in the form of planning grants from the California Wellness Foundation and the San Francisco Founda-

tion. The money will be used to lay the groundwork for an organization that will pool the information obtained by the multiple groups already working with at-risk kids in the Mission and for activities and services that will deter youngsters from gang activity.

A highlight of the summit was when two prominent national figures gave rousing speeches gearing the crowd up for their work ahead.

Dolores Huerta, a renowned farm worker organizer, made a special trip to laud the efforts being made by the Mission community.

"We have the tools in this room," said Huerta over the uniform clapping and foot stomping of the crowd. "We have mouths to speak out, hands to dial phones and distribute fliers and legs to walk together in protest."

Carl Upchurch, who rallied gang members from across the nation to come together in Kansas City for the National Urban Peace and Justice Summit several months ago, spoke at the end of the summit and said that the youth must have the community's support before the violence will end.

After a brief orientation and initial speeches the crowd broke into ten sub-groups which were led by summit organizers. The two-hour small sessions gave individuals a chance to network and come up with practical solutions to gang violence.

Members of each sub-group were randomly chosen, making the discussions well balanced. For instance, in one group there was a person from the Latino Teachers Association, a criminal lawyer, an activist, a Latino youth from Jamestown and a scientist.

Those leading the discussions guided participants away from the pitfall of talking about the numerous problems created by youth in the Mission and prodded the attendees to look for applicable solutions. Lunch was provided during the brainstorming session and in between mouthfuls many potential solutions were batted around.

Several hours later each sub-group

presented its strongest ideas to the group at large.

Over 40 practical solutions to youth related violence were presented to the full group, but several were suggested by two or more

groups, including:

- Get parents and kids more involved in politics by holding rallies and voting drives to increase voting power in the Mission and to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Dolores Soccer Field Delayed Again

Final approval of the soccer field proposed for Dolores Park has been put off until July 6th when the matter will be considered by the full Board of Supervisors. The decision making process for what amounts to leveling a slight rise on one side of the park, has been an exhausting and bewildering marathon event for all those involved. But unless there is yet another twist in the City's labyrinthine bureaucracy the soccer field will be approved by the Board.

It has been a difficult few months for soccer supporters who have had to rally their forces to stormy public meetings only to have their hard won victories deferred for further scrutiny and debate. On April 15th a joint session of the City Planning and Recreation and Parks Commission heard hours of testimony regarding the soccer field but were unable to agree on the issue. Trent Orr Chair of the Rec and Park Commission assured all concerned that Mayor Jordan would cast the tie breaking vote. Since the Mayor had already expressed himself as being in favor of the soccer field, the pro-soccer forces went home thinking they had won.

However, a subsequent opinion from the City Attorney's Office determined that the City Charter requires that both Commissions agree on the matter and until they do, not just the soccer field but the City's entire Open Space Budget can not be approved.

Another joint session of both commissions was accordingly held on June 10th. This proved to be an emotionally charged four hour session during which over seventy speakers made their

respective cases to the wearied commissioners. Strong opposition was voiced by property owners adjacent to the park but soccer fans won the necessary combined approval. Many people had lost a good deal of time off of work, everyone was emotionally drained but it was over.

Then when the issue came up for final review by the Board of Supervisors a question regarding lighting for the field was posed by Supervisor Hallinan but this was at 9:30 at night and the staff people from the Rec and Park Department had already left the meeting. With no one around to answer Hallinan's question the Board decided to put the issue over until their next session, July 6th.

Had anyone from Rec and Park remained at the meeting long enough the Supervisors would have learned that their decision jeopardizes funding for the entire Open Space Budget, which includes both after school programs and park maintenance. Even those most adamantly opposed to the soccer field admit they don't have the votes on the Board to defeat it so the whole process seems rather pointless but the way things have been going nobody's really sure, so another battle royal may be in the works.

The soccer item is listed 3rd on the Supes agenda which begins at 2p.m. in the Supervisors Chambers. Preceding it is the usually brief consent calendar and an item on Democracy in Haiti, which could take no time at all or all day. So it's not over yet.

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The Waldorf Comes to The Mission

Innovative School for the Very Young

by Nanci Abrams

In September, 1993, the Mission Neighborhood Waldorf School Kindergarten (MNWSK) will open its doors. The site is 2,500 square feet, with direct access to a private park, playground, and garden, and is located in the El Centro Del Pueblo Building on Valencia Street.

El Centro Del Pueblo, a neighborhood stabilization project founded by five non-profit organizations, embraced the idea of a Waldorf institution as part of their community project. Barbara Hammer, MNWSK Director, also recognized the mutual benefits of placing the school there. In working closely with El Centro, Hammer found a willing and generous community. People familiar with the project welcomed the addition of a kindergarten. "The entire Waldorf philosophy is really mirrored in El Centro Del Pueblo," said Hammer.

There has been an abundance of support from both individuals and community groups. Local groups, such as Asian Neighborhood Design and Philanthropy by Design, donated cabinet and carpentry designs, French doors, tiles, fixtures, appliances, and fabric. Youth Build, an educational/training group, is working on the construction of the facility. Legal, architectural, contracting, and printing services have also been donated. In June, a



benefit screening of "Black to the Promised Land" at the Roxie drew a positive response. "There was a definite feeling that something really good was happening in the Mission," said Hammer. Financial services are still in high demand, and all excess funds will go

toward scholarships.

The Waldorf Schools began in Germany in 1919, when Rudolf Steiner established a school in Stuttgart for the children of employees of the Waldorf-Astoria cigarette factory. Today there are approximately 550 schools, in over 30 countries, that utilize the Waldorf principles and methods. No two Waldorf schools are identical, and each is administratively independent.

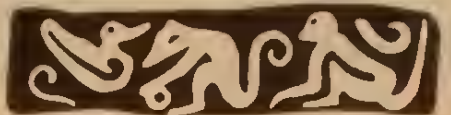
The Mission Neighborhood Waldorf School Kindergarten will offer a morning and an afternoon program. The morning session, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., will be a complete kindergarten program, while the afternoon session, from 12:00-5:00 p.m., will be an artistic

enrichment program. There will be two classes in each session, allowing for a total of 120 students. The afternoon enrichment program is a way for children attending other kindergartens to simultaneously reap the benefits of a Waldorf education.

The Waldorf approach focuses on the child as a whole, a being who will experience his or her surroundings with all five senses, not just the mind. The curriculum is based on the belief that each child is a unique individual, yet all are connected and responsible for the health and future of the Earth. Artistic activity, play and imitation are considered the basis of learning. There is an emphasis on beauty and on appreciating and adding to one's surroundings. A safe, home-like environment is essential to the Waldorf method. "Your first home is your body," says Hammer, "and for a child, play is work." While in other situations children might recite the alphabet to learn it, at a Waldorf school they might act it out. The importance of play in the developmental stage is greatly stressed with activities such as cooking, gardening, and working with clay and molds.

Hammer hopes to involve families from both the Mission district and surrounding areas. She encourages parents to participate and is seeking teaching assistants to volunteer in the classroom. Parents' workshops complementing the Waldorf education will also be offered. Continuous community support will help to keep sliding-scale tuition at a level competitive with other after-school programs.

For more information on the Waldorf School, call Barbara Hammer at 641-0563.



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A LETTER TO MY OPPRESSOR

So my life consists of living in the barrio here in the Mission District with all its beauty and destruction. Here where I live I see an array of faces. I see my Latino immigrant neighbors who speak little or no *ingles*, who work for little pay and support their *familias*. I see their young children's faces, filled with love and playfulness as their mamas take them by hand to school so that they may get a piece of what their parents didn't get: the opportunity to be "somebody" through education. How sad to see that survival interrupts this process, which seems so easily attainable, almost natural, to the rich, white, and affluent peoples.

So I become angry at this point in my writing to you. You see I've taught myself to survive, just as the rest of my *familia* of the poor. I also want you to know that if becoming "somebody" means having nice clothes, elegant jewelry, or a car of the year; not having a dead mouse in my kitchen, grease stained sidewalks, or smelly garbage outside of my doorstep; not feeling emotions towards those less fortunate than myself because I'm too busy making sure I have a lot of "THINGS" to feel better than you, I prefer to die. I prefer you kill me, because your fancy things don't touch my soul or express love, care, joy, or pain. You see, I have something you don't have: a clear conscience and a clean heart. I want you to know that the life I live is not an easy life; you've made it harder for me to achieve my hopes and dreams. You've tainted my livelihood by telling me I'm bad because I don't look like you, I don't think like you and I don't live the way you say is right. You feed me crack, cocaine, and alcohol until I'm shit-faced. Before you know it, I'm dependent on you to fix me, but how can YOU help me when you helped to DESTROY me. Then before you know it, you're paying me to fuck you, and my children are working for you selling your white medicine rock. In the end we are all working for you, we would die for you, we live for you, and we would kill for you. Now you've made me CRAZY because I'm trapped and I need you, but I was never one of you. I was me, I was my mother, my grandmother, a spiritual person. I had dreams and hopes before I met you. You didn't exist then; I was only a child. You RAPED ME of the chance to be "SOMEBODY". Now I'm older and sitting in a chaotic, disgusting mess. My ideals are fucked up, and there is no way out. My children have only me to teach them how to live, and I can only teach what you taught me. Thanks to you, the cycle continues: this is what you've done to an infinite number of people whose hearts and souls were pure.

I'm not going to let you DESTROY me, I'm going to kick your habit, and I'm going to get a piece of that fancy knowledge pie you think is only yours to share. I'm going to open the doors to knowledge, and get smart — does that scare you? I'm going to learn your secrets without losing who I am. I'm going to uncover you and STOP you. I won't have to use a gun, the way you taught me; I won't have to drug you the way you taught me. I just have to love myself. That's all, *eso es todo*, because when I love myself, you lose your power, since that means I'm not less than you. Not only am I going to do this for myself, but I'm going to teach this secret to my children, so that they may learn to love themselves and not love you more. To fulfill my dreams and hopes, I would die throwing this rope of knowledge to the rest of my people. If I die pulling them each up off their knees one by one, I will have died tremendously fulfilled, having known the ultimate dream was lived and happened.

I wrote this letter to you my oppressor, so that you may prepare yourself for our arrival, because we are coming and we will be there soon, real soon....

This is dedicated to Gerald Sandino, who died June 10th, 1993, and to the homies of Hampshire Street. Hold strong to your cultural roots, young brothers and sisters. It is our only road to freedom from racism and barrio warfare.

Anna S. Castillo

Anna S. Castillo, age 22, is a counselor with the Real Alternatives Program.

Summit continued from page 1

make the youth more politically aware.

- Start a mentor program for at-risk kids.
- Demand a proportional share of city services for the Mission. (The Mission received 12 percent of the money raised by the children's legislation Proposition J, but the Mission is home to 19 percent of the City's children.)
- Hold seminars for Mission educators regarding life on the streets of the Mission.
- Centralize information in the Mission by creating a hotline with information on events, programs and social services.
- Get companies that fall within the Mission's boundaries to hire Mission youth.
- Eliminate the gang stereotypes portrayed in the media by finding ways to educate the media about the unique culture in the Mission.
- Encourage more parent involvement in schools and after-school programs.

A one-year strategy is underway to implement the ideas that stemmed from the meeting. A portion of the grant money will be spent on a full-time project coordinator and a part-time planner scheduled to begin work this July. The job descriptions entail creating teams of youth and parent organizers which will do outreach and information gathering as well as evaluate the needs of the Mission's at-risk kids.

Also, members of various community organizations, parents, at-risk youth and other residents will make up a 40-person steering committee which will be responsible for setting policy, monitoring progress and developing the goals and objectives for the Mission-based youth violence prevention program. The steering committee will work with a management team from RAP and CARECEN.

"We have begun to create a community coalition [against street violence]," said Mitch Salazar of RAP, "because our response to the violence must change."

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

The funeral for Michael Booth, known to his friends as Frosty, was held June 25, his death was a result of a gang related stabbing.

Several of Frosty's friends took part in the summit to offer their ideas for curbing the

violence that encompasses their lives and to honor their friend by speaking about his senseless death.

"It's breaking my heart to see them fall," said a young Latina through her tears. "When a homeboy dies it's like part of us dies."

Propped up behind Frosty's friends was a commemorative alter dedicated to all the kids that died senseless deaths in the Mission.

This year's summit made special provisions for the Mission's youth, allowing for their own sub-group to come up with solutions from their unique perspective.

The youth felt the most effective program would be a mentor program with a combination of ex-gang members and other Latinos as mentors. The youth said that having someone older to talk to that could relate to their problems on a street level would deter many Mission youth from joining gangs. In the same vein, the graduates of RAP would like to talk to grade school kids about the dangers of joining gangs.

The youth sub-group also wanted jobs from companies in the Mission. Corporations like Costco, who is planning to open an outlet in the Mission, should, in their view, give a sizable percentage of jobs to Mission residents and, if Costco doesn't they will picket the market until they get jobs.

A gun-check-in program to keep weapons off the street, being able to have a say in the expulsion process at school, keeping programs like Jamestown from closing and opening additional facilities that give Mission kids a place to go after school were other issues the kids said they would like to see implemented. The youth felt that they were often discriminated against on the basis of the clothes they wear.

"Sometimes people judge you by the way you look," said a young Latino dressed in a typical gangster style, "not by what's inside."

The summit concluded with a heart-wrenching speech by Frosty's aunt, who spoke only Spanish, and who pleaded for an end to the gang violence that took her nephew at such a young age. After a moment of silence she turned to the commemorative alter and pinned a photograph of Frosty to it.

For those who spoke no Spanish there was no need for a translation.

The summit offered a setting for members of various Mission organizations to meet

and exchange ideas. Political agendas took a back seat to the overwhelming problems the Mission's youth and gang violence.

Unlike last year's summit the solutions this time around will be part of a one-year strategy executed by a full-time project coordinator and a part-time project planner which

gives teeth to solutions laid out by the community at the summit.

"When I tell the kids I work with what happened today it will give them hope," said Vicki Trapalis, of San Francisco Juvenile Hall, who works with boys between the ages of 12 and 17.



CONSENSUS WAS REACHED THROUGH SMALL GROUP SESSIONS.
Photo by COLLETTE SWEENEY.



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Qué Diablos

New Soccer Team Has Mission Focus

Mario Chavez is trying to replace drugs and gangs with a better goal for Mission youth—a soccer goal.

That's why Chavez, who says that soccer is what saved him from getting tangled up in crime, founded the San Francisco Diablos last year. The Diablos are the only Latin-oriented team in the Pacific Division of the United States Inter-Regional Soccer League (U.S.I.S.L.), the largest professional developmental soccer league in the nation, designed to prepare players for the pro level.

As the league's profile of the team states, Chavez does nearly everything for the Diablos: he is founder, coach, even listed on the roster as a player.

Chavez's hope is that the goal of playing in a national league and of possibly making it into professional soccer will motivate Mission youth to stay away from drugs and gangs. A strong believer in the value of mental and physical self-discipline, Chavez likes players who do a lot with their lives besides playing soccer. "I look for players who are working toward careers outside of soccer," he says.

In addition to serving as role models, the Diablos have also helped the Mission Youth Soccer League fight for the Dolores Park soccer field by printing flyers and speaking at public hearings. Half of the Diablos players are in college, and that, on top of working and practicing three times a week, is a tremendous load. "But," explains Chavez, "that's why we call it a privilege to be on the Diablos—because you have to earn it!"

But Chavez has been disappointed by the



lack of support which the team has received from the City's Hispanic community. Although he wants the Diablos to be based in the Mission, the team is now less than half Hispanic, as discipline problems have forced him to cut quite a few of his Hispanic players. Also, attendance at the home games played at Kezar Stadium has been low. However, at the end of June, Chavez switched the home games to

Balboa High School stadium, making them more accessible to Mission residents.

The Diablos haven't won any of their first five games, so they probably aren't headed for the league's championships, the 'Sizzling Six'; nevertheless, Chavez feels that the team is making encouraging progress. "We lost our first game 5-0," he says, "but two weeks ago we almost beat the undefeated, number one

team in our division."

And, besides, although victories and ticket sales count, the Diablos also have a more important goal—helping the Mission's youth find a better way.

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Angels' Agenda

Guardian Angels Organize Community Policing Projects

The Guardian Angels have been a part of the San Francisco scene since 1980, but in the last two years the group has expanded its operations from crime deterrent street patrols undertaken by the Angels themselves, to organizing efforts that assist neighborhoods in forming their own community policing programs. The Angels have helped establish three such neighborhood based patrols in the Mission and in the course of doing so they have developed a unique perspective on the area's public safety problems. In an interview session with New Mission News, 31-year-old Christopher Ford, who has been the Northern California Coordinator for the Guardian Angels for the last four years, expressed some strong views about the dynamics and causes of violent crime in the Mission.

COLORS WAR

Ford said that there is a "colors-oriented gang situation in the Mission." Ford was referring to the fact that the gangs identify themselves by the color of the clothing they wear. "But these gangs are not only Latino youth; there are other ethnicities involved including African-Americans, Whites and Asians," Ford stated.

He sees the "colors war" as being fueled by factors from outside the Mission. "Over the last few years, specifically the last year, there has been an organizing going on, an expansion of a dark colored clothed group or gang in the 19th and Mission area. They have referred to themselves to me as Suernos or Trece. There used to be quite a few geographical or block gangs that were smaller and made up of younger kids. Now what you have is outsiders coming in and pulling these kids into drugs and other illegal activities. It has been pointed out to me that this influencing has been coming from Los Angeles, coming up here and trying to organize these groups."

Ford described this expanded Blue area as running from Dolores Park to Potrero and from 18th St. to 22nd or 23rd St. This has resulted in older local groups being forced to peripheries of this corridor along 24th St. and 14th St.—Natomia and 14th St. has in fact become the latest hot spot in the shifting demographics of Mission violence. According to Ford, trouble escalated at this corner when a core group of about ten kids "became quite brutal as a result of pressure from the Treces." Forty to fifty Anglo and Latino youths began hanging out selling drugs and assaulting

Natoma St. residents. When one neighbor was attacked with a baseball bat after refusing to give one these kids money, the Guardian Angels were asked by residents to help the area get organized. Ford said the Natoma group would probably start their own street patrols this month. The situation has been cooled to some extent by community meetings and a barbecue where dialogues between neighbors and gang members have reduced tensions; but one man was recently beaten unconscious after

much emphasis on financial success and don't teach conflict resolution skills. American youth are instilled with an inability to resolve conflicts without violence. It's always goes to an immediate escalation to violence with these kids."

Another Mission group the Guardian Angels helped organize and train also came together in the wake of a violent crime by a youth. In January of this year, near the corner of 19th and Linda St., 81 year old Ellen Monzoni was knocked to the ground by a purse

Mission street patrol the Angels helped form. Based on the 300 block of Lexington St., the Lookouts have been very successful in making their block one of the more tranquil of local thoroughfares. However, on some occasions when they have patrolled along 20th between Mission and Valencia, the Lookouts have had altercations with a group of teenagers and young adults who have established this section of street as their hangout.

Last month the Lookouts rescued a neighbor from what Ford believed would have been serious injury at the hands of this bunch, who he said "because of certain of their actions and their clothing, have affiliation with the Trece gang on 19th."

UNARMED PATROLS

This incident brought up the question of how effective citizen patrols can be when confronted with the well-armed criminal element that plague the streets. Ford is convinced the patrols are very capable in this regard. "The premise of these patrols is that they are weaponless patrols. We conduct open searches to show the criminals that we are unarmed. It is my belief and it is the Guardian Angels belief that by not using weapons we do not run into the use of weapons against us. It's very rare. The people who are getting shot are the people who have guns."

Ford maintains that in an era of increasingly dwindling police resources "we just aren't going to have a cop on every corner"; nor are community meetings that turn into "finger pointing sessions, with each little group trying to be the squeaky wheel that gets the grease going to get anywhere....There is a definite need for community policing programs." To Ford that means not only the acceptance of the neighborhood patrol concept by local police but their active support. "More police officers should be accountable to community patrols, especially beat cops," he said. Ford feels if people believed they would be given sufficient back up by the police, community policing programs would rapidly increase in number.

For the time being the Guardian Angels are busy enough. They are not only involved with the three Mission efforts but also with Residents Against Drugs in the Haight and a second Haight organization just getting off the ground. All this activity has diverted the Angels from something they have been trying to accomplish for the last two years—establishing a headquarters in the Mission. One deal after another has fallen through and the group is now using a utility room of an apartment building near 20th and Capp as a temporary expedient. Ford remains hopeful that somewhere out there, there's a property owner who will donate the space.

Victor Miller



GUARDIAN ANGEL COORDINATOR CHRIS FORD. Photo by COLLETTE SWEENEY.

confronting a youth about graffiti.

Some who have followed the recent wave of gang violence in the Mission attribute it to the influx of Central American youth, who have grown up in and been marked by the violence of almost perpetual civil wars. Ford disagrees with that analysis: "This violent behavior is not coming from somewhere else. Educational programs in this country place too

snatcher who was described by witnesses as being about 13 years old. Although she survived, Mrs. Monzoni is still confined to a nursing home as a result of the injuries she suffered. The attack occurred at the height the community struggle against dope dealer related violence in adjacent Mission Playground and spurred formation of a street patrol. Calling itself Safe Streets, this group of neighbors walks the area bounded by Valencia, Dolores Park, Liberty and 18th St. two to three times a week, sometimes fifteen to twenty strong. Ford believes the dramatic improvement in the safety of this part of the Mission, compared to what it was six months ago, is due to the continuing presence of Safe Streets.

The Lexington Lookouts were the first

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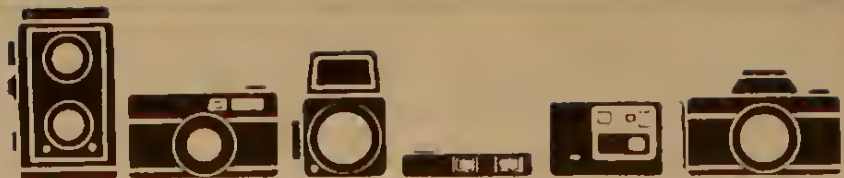
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mission broadsider

by andy solow

Jamestown: Can We Get Along?

Recently, the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) announced that it is planning to close the evening and weekend youth recreation program components of Jamestown Community Center. If the Youth Program, which serves about 50 clients per day (ages 5 and up) is terminated, the net savings to CYO would be less than \$7,000/yr.

On Wednesday, June 9, I attended a demonstration at the St. Francis Hotel, the site of a \$225/plate CYO fund raising dinner. More than 60 Mission residents carrying picket signs marched, chanted slogans, and handed out leaflets on behalf of the Jamestown Youth Program while eight of the S.F. Police Department's Finest stood guard. At least half of the protesters were children.

After the demonstration, I found the Jamestown contingent out in the parking lot scratching around for a few coins to rub together for a couple of pizzas for the kids. Meanwhile, inside the grand old hotel, the CYO guests, wearing fancy duds and dripping with jewels, were sitting down to dinner in a great room reminiscent of Robber-Baron days past.

Jamestown, located on the line of demarcation between Noe Valley and the Mission (at 23rd & Fair Oaks) has been a youth recreation center in the Mission District of San Francisco for more than 20 years. Currently, CYO leases a portion of the Mission Day Care Center from St. James Parrish and the Archdiocese to provide space for the Youth Program. CYO has been funding the weekday portion of the Youth Program and S.F. Department of Parks & Recreation has been funding the weekend portion.

According to Tim Hanretty, Associate Director of CYO, the decision to close down the Jamestown Youth Program was made three years ago. Hanretty claimed that Park & Rec was supposed to pick up the program responsibility and CYO was to continue to provide the building. Three years later Park & Rec and the Archdiocese have still not been able to work out an agreement. "We have made efforts to make the facility available but, to this date, no concrete proposals for the use of the space have been submitted" said Hanretty.

However, Paul Nixon of the Fair Oaks Neighbors Association said that the Association has just submitted a \$40,000 grant proposal to take over the operation of the Jamestown Youth Program; "but since CYO never paid any attention to my telephone calls until we picketed their fund raiser at the St. Francis Hotel, they knew nothing about our proposal until a couple of weeks ago" said Nixon.

Nixon added that "Virtually all of the money that CYO has put in to Jamestown during the last 25 years came either from Federal Grants or the United Way. With the exception of free rent, donated for many years by the rather destitute St. James Parrish, none of the Jamestown funding came from the Church."

The question is: Did the Federal and United Way dollars just dry up, did CYO decide to spend them somewhere else, or is it just that it is substantially easier to raise money for child care programs?

According to Superintendent of Recreation Joel Robinson, based upon preliminary negotiations between CYO, St. James Parrish, and Park & Rec, the City Attorney drew up an agreement which was approved by the Recreation and Park Commission more than two years ago. Since then, no further progress has been made toward concluding a final collaborative arrangement.

According to Robinson, the proposed agreement is nothing new. In fact, it is just like the one between St. Boniface Church, the Tenderloin Recreation Center and Park & Rec; but the attorneys for the Archdiocese have advised their clients not to sign it.

The sticking point in the negotiations has

been insistence by the Archdiocese that the City sign a blanket "hold harmless" clause. The Recreation and Parks Dept. has made a commitment to accept liability for the program and has even offered to provide all of the staff; but Park & Rec wants the Archdiocese to accept liability for the building.

Robinson says that the City Attorney's office invested a lot of time (and \$\$\$) on contract negotiations and revisions, but "The City can't take responsibility for someone else's building. If a kid is in there lifting weights and drops a weight on his foot, that is the kind of thing that would be covered by our insurance; but if a pipe falls from the ceiling and hits someone in the head, the owner of the building (St. James Parrish) would have to accept liability."

Robinson also stated that if CYO pulls out of the Jamestown Youth Program, the building will be closed to Park and Rec, and they will have no choice but to cease operations.

According to Mike Marovich, Director of CYO, "the perception has been created that CYO is abandoning all youth programs at 180 Fair Oaks; but the day care & summer day camp which handles 60 3-5 year old children per day will continue to operate...CYO has a long history of providing programs from 180 Fair Oaks. The program that began in 1969 evolved into Jamestown Community Center. A few years ago, St. James Parrish and CYO made a strategic decision to concentrate on the critical need for child care, including evening and weekend services."

Marovich also notes that CYO's United Way funding was just cut by 40% and the majority of the children in the Jamestown Child Care Program are "the monolingual, high risk, highly marginalized" progeny of single female parents; hence CYO's rationale for sacrificing the Youth Program on the altar of Child Care.

According to Marovich and Lillian Rossi, Director of CYO's Jamestown Child Care Program, because of incidents of drug and alcohol abuse associated with the presence of the Youth Program, about 80 people, including many of the parents of the young children in the Day Care Program, have signed a petition that refers to "concern for the safety and well being of the Day Care participants". But according to Paul Nixon, over 1,000 area residents signed petitions and wrote letters supporting the Youth Program.

Nixon feels that the problem has a lot to do with image. "People are afraid of the Mission District. Besides, it's a lot easier to raise money for innocent looking little toddlers than it is to raise money for kids who sag their pants and look like street toughs. Even if we solve the funding and the program problems, we should still go to an organization like Community Boards to work on the perceptual problems."

Larry Del Carlo, Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development most eloquently summed up the situation at Jamestown in a letter to Mike Marovich dated May 28:

"There exists a strong possibility that even if the recreation program is closed, the Jamestown site would continue to be a congregating area for youth. Having to run the child care program in an environment where the older youths are running around completely unsupervised presents the worst possible scenario....It is our belief that the utmost consideration should be given to proposals that allow both the child care and the recreation programs to survive. All attempts should be made to avoid closure of the recreation program while such proposals are developed."



16th Street Festival Set for October

Organizers Want Broad-based Participation

by Robin Snyderman

If you believe that Artists and Opportunists are cast from different dyes, then you missed a recent meeting of the 16th Street Neighborhood Revitalization Association.

"I was telling the folks at the auto-body shop about this community celebration throughout the month of October," one painter shared with those present (a cafe owner, a gallery director, a theater manager, a non-profit housing staffer, an academic researcher and several others). "And the couple who ran the place fretted that they had nothing to offer such a cultural extravaganza.

"I almost accepted 'No' for an answer," the painter smiled coyly. "But then my eyes darted around the garage at all those white walls and I said, 'Oh my. I beg to differ!'"

So come October, needless to say, not only will this young artist have ample space to show her work, but the auto-body shop acting as her gallery will attract a whole new clientele... and at least a handful of new customers.

And so the connections go: A restaurant hosts an up-and-coming puppeteer. One cafe sponsors a series of readings by young poets. A couple of antique shops slash prices on their merchandise. And the residents of the affordable housing complex on the corner invite a dance troupe to perform for the whole neighborhood in their little blue courtyard.

While some folks are scheduling events especially for October, others will simply use this opportunity to strut their usual stuff, but with an unusual supply of support and promotional perks.

And what are you going to do? According to members of the 16th Street Neighborhood Revitalization Association, now's the time to think about it. For ideas and encouragement, stop by their next meeting. They gather the first and third Thursday of every month. Call #863-7576 for details.

Haven't got time to plan something new? Don't sweat it. Just spend a few moments doing inventory on whatever it is that you do best, and let the 16th Street Neighborhood



Revitalization Association help you put the word out. This coalition of artists, merchants, residents, service providers and activists have been meeting regularly for over a year. They are working to cultivate the inherent strengths and charms of the 16th Street corridor. Their philosophy? That community and economic development grow out of neighborhood empowerment, a positive identity and celebration.

This is somewhat different than the problem-solving approach that is at the core of many existing organizations and alliances.

The kind of analysis and strategizing that took place at June 26th Mission summit, for example, challenged the community to look toward the future and answer some tough

questions about crime, youth activities and poverty.

October's celebration, on the other hand, will remind the community and the City at large that the 16th Street Corridor is a force to be reckoned with; that its diversity, its Arts and its

passion for social justice (as evidenced by the dozens of local service providers) are unmatched throughout San Francisco.

Already, the 16th Street Neighborhood Revitalization Association has sponsored two successful workshops: "Community Health & the Arts" and "It's in Your Power." Both gatherings exemplified the potential for neighborhood empowerment and of October's Celebration.

The panelists at one of these workshops represented several local organizations which creatively use art and culture to mend the results of a frayed social fabric. Individuals from the Friendship House, Creativity Explored, Listen to Our Elders/ Listen to Our Children, Clarion Alley Muralists and St. John's Educational Threshold Center sat side by side with esteemed spokespeople from the San Francisco Foundation and the Arts Commission.

In a second workshop, Mission-based PG&E Community Specialists shared information with low-income residents about free appliances and cost-saving energy techniques.

Perhaps as meaningful as the material presented at these workshops was the spirit of pride and community that flooded the room.

Yes, there are difficult problems begging to be solved, but rest assured that locally there are solutions to discover and resources to grasp.

So whether you have art to show, white walls to share, sales to promote or information to impart—go ahead and call 863-7576 to partake in October's Celebration.

It'll be fun, and it'll be important.

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Hangin' in the Hood

Visual Arts Venues in the Mission

by Murray Pashkin

In the last few years, a cultural explosion has taken place in the Mission district that has catapulted it into a grass roots "cutting edge" visual arts center. Not since the "Beat" movement of the 50's in North Beach has a burst of creative activity been identified with a particular area of the city. News of this renaissance has been heard in like-minded cultural centers across the country, and even in Europe and Latin America. Although established artists are part of the trend, the accent is on the lesser known and emerging. The proliferation of venues catering to new talent and the varied cultural content of the work, reflecting the Mission's multi-cultural character, is astonishing. The spectrum runs from the social and politically conscious to the outrageous Avant-Garde and all points in between. In order to guide the aficionado through this rich labyrinth and aid practitioners in search of outlets for their work, we have prepared a complete listing of art exhibiting venues.

The listing is divided into two kinds of venues. The first are cafes, bookstores, studios, frame shops, clubs—those whose principal operation is other than exhibiting art. Generally, they prefer a bold and original style. Other considerations may be the fitness of work to the particular environment or its ability to fit into a particular group show. Most shows stay up



from 4 to 6 weeks. Unless otherwise stated, the venue does group and individual shows.

There are no fees for exhibiting, but some venues might expect the artist to share in financing opening receptions or miscellaneous costs. Others may take a percentage of sales.

Although many venues accept samples

(slides, portfolios, etc.) of work dropped off without prior notice, it's best to call for an appointment. Often the arrangement is to for artist to leave slides or samples and the person in charge of the exhibit will contact the artist. Waiting lists vary. Most are 2 to 6 months, but some backed up longer. Cancellations do

occur, however, allowing for sudden openings. Where any of the above items are more specific, it will be noted in the listing.

The second venue is the "gallery." Although some may be part of an arts complex (Intersection for the Arts, Southern Exposure Artists organization) that involve a number of activities, art exhibition is a principal one. Standards of excellence are more exacting and some are identified with a particular style, content, or ethnic group. The process of submission is generally uniform. Slides of current work, particularly examples the artist wishes to show at the exhibit under consideration, resumes, and reviews or publicity regarding previous shows should be sent to the gallery accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. A number of galleries feature site-specific installations in addition to painting exhibitions. In those cases, artists should submit a proposal. For the most part, judgment is made by a committee made up of professional artists who review submitted work quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. A number of galleries plan exhibition schedules annually. As a result, waiting lists can vary from 3 months to a year or more. Some galleries are short staffed, so response time might be long. Although rare, cancellations do occur, allowing for sudden openings. Most galleries will take a percentage of sales.

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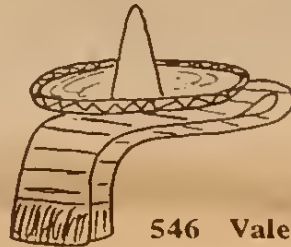
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Adobe Bookshop
3166 16th St., SF, CA 94103
864-3936
Sean Regan

Ablon Bar
3139 16th St, SF, CA 94103
Todd Englert, Owner
Marylyn Berkhimcr, Mgr.
Accepts photography. Shows remain up
2 months. Tues-Fri, 2-5 PM

Bean-O
878 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
285-2728
Young Kim, Owner.
Drop off work Mon, Wed, Fri 10 AM
-5 PM. Individual shows.

Bearded Lady Cafe
485 14th St., SF, CA 94114
626-2805
Call Shez to submit work: 648-5980.
Shows art done by women.

Blondies Bar
540 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
Clarice Lacau, Ricci Cornell
Accepts photography. Submit work during
daytime hours only. Individual shows.

La Boheme
3318 24th St., SF, CA 94110
285-4122
Matt Kim, Owner
Mon-Fri, 12-3 PM. Individual shows.

Casanova Lounge
527 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
863-9328
Monica da Silva
Sun, Mon, Thurs, Fri: 6 PM-2 AM

Clay Studio
52 Julian Ave., SF, CA 94110
431-6296
A ceramics workshop with classes and in-
struction. Gallery Hours: Wed, Fri, Sat 10 AM-
5 PM, and by appt. Call for appt. regarding
submission. Shows remain up 6-8 weeks.
Primarily individual shows. Prefers three
dimensional work and encourages ceramics.

The Club
920 Valencia St., SF, CA 94110
821-7112
Yousef Barakat, Owner
Call 10 AM-6 PM, Mon-Fri.

Falling Dog Cafe
3591 20th St., SF, CA 94110
826-8820
Alic Horton
Call cafe for submission information.

Cafe Fanari
2773 24th St., SF, CA 94110
Oscar Rocha, Owner
3-6 PM, Mon-Sat

Figure 5 Gallery
3491 19th St., SF, CA 94110
641-8042
Laura Heyman
Gallery Hours: Fri-Mon, 12-6 PM. Al-
though they accept all media, they have shown
much photography. Shows are usually planned
6 months in advance.

Fire Thorn Studio
229 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
431-5420
Michael Goepford
Primarily an artist work-studio space. Ex-
hibitions are mounted sporadically. In addi-
tion, two front windows can be rented
for exhibition use. Call and leave message
and Mr. Goepford will contact you. During ex-
hibitions, gallery hours are Sat-Mon, 12-6 PM.

Gravity Spot
1136 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
282-4271
Tracy Wymer
Individual shows, accepts photography.

Higher Ground II
3170 16th St., SF, CA 94103
864-3936
Derar Zawaydeh Hail
Call between 2-3 PM.
Mainly individual shows.

John Francis Restoration Studio
580 York St., SF, CA 94110

864-0280
John Carney
Principal activity is restoration of antique
art, sculpture, and furniture. Hours: Mon-Fri,
8 AM-5 PM; Sat, 9 AM-1 PM and by appoint-
ment. Prefers to see work artist specifically
wants to exhibit. Primarily, individual shows.
Prefers mature work. Because of the nature of
clientele, mailing list for receptions consists
generally of interior designers, antique dealers,
art galleries.

Kommotion
Non-Profit Artist Collective
2779 16th St., SF, CA 94110
861-6423
Adam Meyers
Mon-Fri, 3-7 PM. Call to submit. Artists
should look at space before deciding to exhibit.

Latin American Club
Mole Gallery
3286 22nd St., SF, CA 94110
647-2732
Adriana Marchione
4 PM-2 AM. Accepts photography.

Maelstrom Books
572 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
863-9933
Henry Hollander, Owner
Individual show. Accepts photography.
Prefers mature work. Call for appt.

Macondo Cafe
3159 16th St., SF, CA 94103
863-6517
Alvaro Lagos & Christine Gutierrez,
Owners
Accent on social & political themes.
Accepts photography.

Muddy Waters Coffee House
521 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
863-8006
Elham Massarweh
1 or 2 artists per show.

Muddy's
1304 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
647-7994
See "Muddy Waters Coffee House"

Cafe Nidal
2491 Mission, SF, CA 94110
285-4334
Call Nidal. Day: 2-6 PM, 821-6622.
Eve: 6-10 PM, 285-0231.

Pancho Villa
3071 16th St., SF, CA 94110
864-8840
Call for Mario Joel and leave name
& phone no.

Cafe Picaro
3120 16th St., SF, CA 94110
863-4089
Rob Trains
Call 558-0658 for appt.

Radio Valencia
1199 Valencia St., SF, CA 94110
826-1199
Lance Alan
Work generally remains up for 3 months.
efers figurative and, generally, mature work.

Cafe Ruins
590 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
621-6218
Gasán Shibley
Call and make an appointment. In addition
to quality, suitability to decor is a factor in
exhibiting.

Small Press Traffic
3599 24th St., SF, CA 94110
285-8394
Hawley Hussie
Tues-Sat, 12-6PM. Call or drop of Name,
Phone#, and Proposal in writing. Shows
remain up for 2 months. Prefers innovative
work: window installation, book artform (wood
cuts, text images, etc.), collaborations, perfor-
mance, etc. Interested in billboard art for out-
side wall. Would like to see work from a variety
of cultures, particularly but not limited to the
Mission community. Shows are planned for the
year. Currently seeking submissions for 1994.

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Hangin'

continued from page 11

Twenty Third St. Gallery
3747 23rd St., SF, CA 94110
824-3408
Michael Markowitz

Primary function is drawing classes. Exhibitions are sporadic, remaining up for two weekends. However, they invite submissions.

Woman's Crafts West
1007-1/2 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
648-2020
Pell, Owner
Limited to women artists.

GALLERIES

Artist Television Access (ATA)
992 Valencia, SF, CA 94110
824-3890
Gallery Hrs: Wed, Fri, Sat, 12-6 PM.
Submit work c/o "Gallery Space",
Tiana Pastor or John Byrd.

Promotes emerging unknown artists, alternative ideas, multi-cultural issues, critique of mass media, video installations, window installations, local diversity. Programs and exhibits tend to challenge. They are a youth culture into bold, daring, and hard-driving, no holds-barred political and social critique.

No Commission on sales. Artist arranges and is responsible for cost of reception. Committee reviews work submitted for exhibition quarterly. Generally, 3 month waiting list.

Capp Street Project
270, 14th St., SF, CA 94110
626-7747
Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat, 12-5 PM.
Anastasia Shartin

Since their founding in 1983, they've been one of the few galleries, and the only artist-in-residence program, in the country specializing in installations art. The artist uses the space, transforming it or creating it anew to put forth a particular vision. The environment created can also include performance. Although installation artists have dealt with themes as varied as pop culture, spirituality, censorship, political and social critique, what unites them is the new and unusual ways they present those themes, and the deep affect on their spectators.

Call for submission guidelines. Submissions are reviewed annually. Artists are given an honorarium fee, a stipend, and a 3 months residency, which includes time creating installation and the 6 weeks of the exhibit.

Galleria De La Raza
2857 24th St., SF, CA 94110
826-8009
Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat, 12-6 PM.
Ann Montano.

Promotes Latino art and culture, and specializes in Chicano art. Gallery veers toward innovative work that is socially conscious.

Non-Latino artists will be considered when

their work fits a particular theme of a show. There is an honoraria sum of money given to the artist.

Galeria Museo
Mission Cultural Center
2868 Mission St., SF, CA 94110
821-1155, ext. 11
Juan Pablo Gutierrez, Gallery Director.
Gallery hours: Wed-Fri 1 PM-6 PM, Sat & Sun 1-4 PM.

Promotes Latino artists throughout the world, and veers toward work dealing with social issues faced by the Latino community.

Annual "Day of the Dead"(Nov) and "Heart of Neighborhood"(Feb) exhibitions are multi-cultural and open to all.

Intersection for the Arts
446 Valencia St., SF, CA 94110
626-2787
Linda Wilson, Gallery Director.
Gallery hours: 12-4:30, Tues-Sat.

Tends toward individual shows. Solicits submissions in Fall (Sept, Oct). Decision is made in January. Exhibitions are planned for the year, and first show is in late spring or early fall. Honorarium fee to artist of \$350.

La Raza Graphics Center
938 Valencia St., SF, CA 94110
648-0930
Robert Carrillo, Executive Director
Gallery Hours: 9 AM-5 PM
Promotes awareness of La Raza - Latino and Hispanic Art & Culture. Encourages originality in form and content, and breaking away from mainstream. Although focus is on La Raza, accomodation is made for emerging, unknown artists of whatever ethnic background that gallery feels should be shown.

Southern Exposure
401 Alabama St., SF, CA 94110
863-2141
Mike Blockstein, Associate Director
Gallery hours: 12-5 PM
Work should be addressed to the "Curatorial Committee."

Submissions should include a slide script (title, media, dimensions, date of execution). Artist's statement is optional.

The gallery is a non-profit artists' organization that encourages innovative, risk taking work. Their activities are varied and include performance, panel discussions, educational programs, literary events, installations. An honorarium fee to the artist of \$200 or more plus a year's membership in Southern Exposure.

Women's Art Project
3543 18th St., SF, CA 94110
641-8640
Alexandra Feit
Gallery hours: 9AM-1PM
Prefers issue oriented work. Quarterly screenings are announced in Art Week. There is a screening fee. Call for more information regarding submission.

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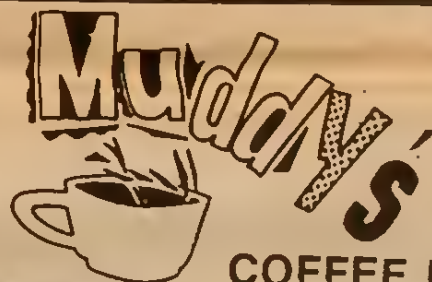
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City Charter's Scoundrel Heritage

Fear of Corruption Creates Bureaucratic Gridlock

Does anyone really understand how San Francisco City government works? Is the City hamstrung by a charter that is too long and complex to serve as a guide for public policy? Last month, a wearisome and occasionally nasty four hour joint session of the Planning Commission and Recreation and Park Commission was held for a second time to decide whether or not to put a soccer field in Dolores Park. An identical and equally acrimonious debate had been held on April 15th and ended with a failure of the two commissions to agree on the soccer field issue but in agreement on everything else. Rec and Park Commission President Trent Orr announced that Mayor Jordan, who had already stated his support for the field, would break the deadlock. Nearly two weeks passed before the City Attorney's Office, to the astonishment of all concerned, determined that not only did the Mayor have no role to play, but until the soccer field question was settled, the budget for the City's entire Open Space Program could not be funded. The soccer field was approved and disaster averted, but only after a considerable waste of everyone's time. So why didn't the players know the rules of the game?

It is easy enough to adopt the cynical (and all too often correct) attitude that most people in public office and their attendant staffs are, except in the area of larceny, not especially bright. This is in fact an underlying tenet of the current Charter of the City and County of San Francisco. Its elaborate system of checks and balances which serves so well in protecting against the corruption inherent to centralized power, frequently leads to confusion over who's in charge. The Charter, the basic operational manual for City Government, consists of over 360 pages of densely worded legalese dealing with everything from spur railroad lines and the relocation of produce districts to the retirement benefits of Housing Authority Police. Labor relations with City employees including detailed actuary tables and benefit schedules constitutes nearly one half of the Charter.

However arcane or unreadable various sections of the Charter may be, the amend-

ment of any one of them must be put before the electorate, whether the electorate likes it or not. Since 1971 the Charter has been amended over 250 times and added to nearly 200 times; only 26 sections were repealed during that same period. As we go to press, eight members of the Board of Supervisors have submitted 29 charter proposals for the November ballot. Some of these will, of course, fail to get the necessary backing of six Board members before submission to the voters. But many will. Some will be passed and the Charter will probably get larger and more obtuse.

By comparison, the city of San Jose gets along with a trim 92-page charter that has been amended only a few dozen times in the last three decades and restricts itself to just 14 pages on city employees. The San Jose Charter is more along the lines of a constitution offering general guidelines for running the city; while the San Francisco Charter seems obsessed with the minute aspects of governmental operations.

Political analyst Frederick Wirt, in his examination of San Francisco decision making, *Power in the City* (University of California Press 1974), gave a gloomy assessment of the ability of the Charter to adapt to changing circumstances and challenges, which is still applicable today:

"Administrative power is split among a mayor, a chief administrative officer, a comptroller, boards and commissions, and an entirely independent school board. The Charter also mandates rigid and extensive civil service and merit systems, fiercely guarded by city employee unions and regularly sweetened by referenda....When the successful outcome of policy must rest on the agreement of so many private groups and public authorities, the power of any one component to block any action is magnified. Over time, consequently, only minor policy adjustments are possible, but it is highly doubtful that these add up to an adequate response to deep and widespread community problems. Instead, the bulk of public policy is made by clerks beyond the reach of the electorate....What San Francisco has then is a government by clerks."



BOSS ABE REUFF, A GENTLEMAN AND A FELON.

THE SCOUNDREL ERA

This diffusion of power in the charter was intended by its framers to curtail the dominance of the political bosses—Chris Buckley and Abe Reuff, who ruled the city from the 1880's to the early part of this century. The Charter's Byzantine character is largely their legacy to San Francisco.

Buckley, a believer in the old adage "vote early and often", was a saloon keeper whose expertise in the art of ballot box stuffing was legendary. Buckley operated out of his Alhambra Saloon at the corner of Bush and Kearny Streets, where, in an unabashed, open manner, he dispensed favors, collected bribes, and paid off those on his frequent voter plan. In 1890, Buckley shocked his colleagues in the Democratic Party by throwing his support to the successful U.S. Senate campaigns of Leland Stanford and George Hearst. Civic leaders suddenly took notice of Buckley's unique interpretation of the democratic process and, through a series of Grand Jury indictments that never garnered a conviction, toppled him from power. A new city charter in 1898 was supposed to do away with the abuses perpetrated by Buckley but only paved the way for his more outrageous successor, Abe Reuff.

Reuff, like Buckley, never held public office; he was an attorney who masterminded the mayoral victory of Eugene Schmitz in 1902. Reuff and Schmitz began a systematic looting of the city, selling franchises, permits and city jobs to the highest bidders. The proceeds were shared with members of the Board of Supervisors, seventeen of whom eventually confessed to accepting bribes. Bar owners who wanted to keep their liquor licenses kept their premises stocked with cigars purchased from Police Commissioner John Drinkhouse and insured against accidental fire from said cigars by

policies sold to them by Police Commissioner Thomas Reagan. Since the Police Commission reviewed liquor licenses every three months, Drinkhouse cigars and Reagan insurance were big sellers. Publicans who didn't like it could always consult the liquor dealers association attorney, Abe Reuff.

Reuff overextended himself when he continued his profiteering ways in the immediate wake of the 1906 fire and earthquake. On April 23, 1906, a notice announcing competitive bidding for the city's telephone franchise was placed near the still smoking embers of what had been City Hall by an attorney for the Home Telephone Co. The same day, with the city in chaos and ruins, the Home Telephone Co. was, not surprisingly, the only company to submit a bid to the Supervisors and picked up what was probably a \$1,000,000 franchise for \$25,000. The amount collected by Reuff and his cronies on this and other deals following the fire and quake is unknown, but the ensuing public uproar led to their undoing. Reuff eventually went to prison and Schmitz was removed from office, as were many of the Board of Supervisors and city commissioners.

The current charter, although written in 1932, more than twenty years after the Reuff Scandals, is nonetheless clearly a reaction against the corruption of that era. The question is: has the Charter's excessive concern that power not be in any way abused created a straight jacket preventing power from being used in any effective way? Is there no middle ground between a city dominated by the venality of crooks and one suffocated by the banality of clerks?

Editor's Note: At press time, the soccer field was held up again.

NEXT Month: More on SF's in-ponderable city charter.

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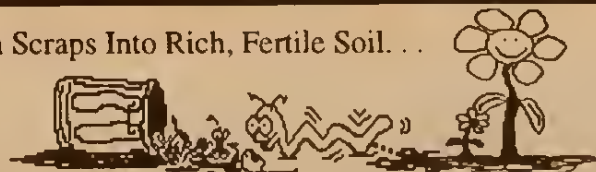
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MISSION INSIDER



BY LISA HAMBURGER

Biotech Gulch?!

The Mission District represents only 4% of San Francisco's land. Of its population, however, the Mission's 57,000 residents represent 8%; density here is twice that of the rest of the City.

Its residents are 52% of Mexican, Central and South American origin, 25% Caucasian (non-hispanic), 14% Asian, 8% Black and 1% American Indian. More than 12,000 are under 18 years of age and almost 5,000 are over 65. The area is replete with old and new businesses, both large and small.

When I first arrived, I was told that the district extended to Duboce on the North, Church on the West, Potrero on the East and Army on the South. As time goes on, however, the Mission has been divided. The north part of the area between Valencia and Church is referred to as Dolores Heights and, further South, as Noe Valley. The North-East quadrant of the Mission is known as the North East Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ).

The NEMIZ, constituting almost 22% of the Mission District's land area, is where the future Mission will be determined, since it is one of the few areas with room for innovation and large new development.

The Mission's evolution centers around the NEMIZ, not only as an integral neighborhood-within-a-neighborhood on the verge of

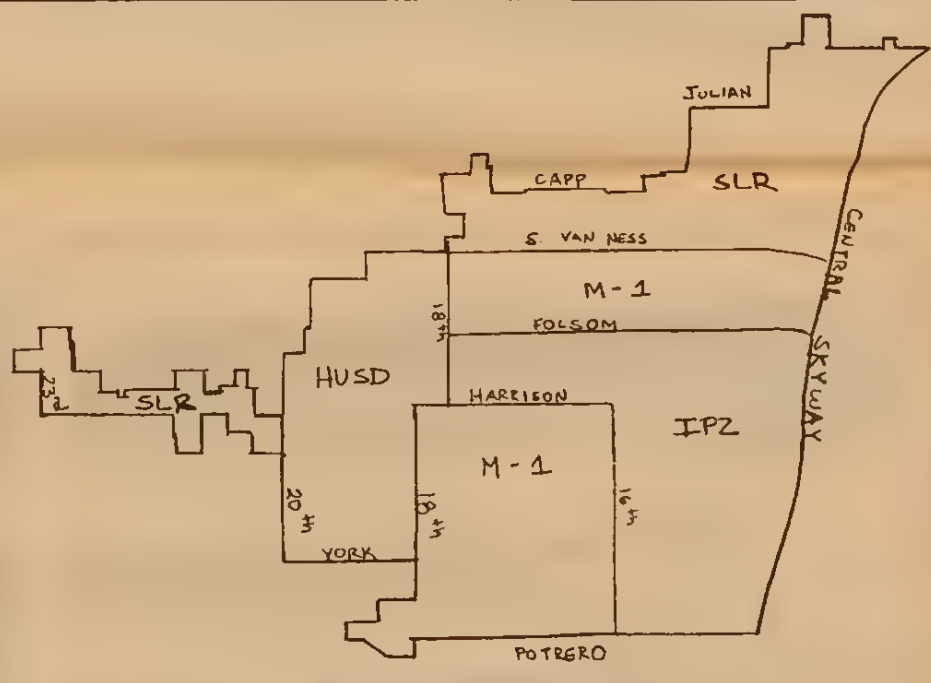
encourage textile industry, light manufacturing, warehouses and other businesses to develop.

There are two ingredients to making the IPZ work. First, disallow residential or live/work space within the area, thus avoiding conflicts between residents and business regarding noise, transportation and the like. For industrial-type businesses, elbow room to operate is essential.

The other important ingredient, however, will be the City. With other cities giving away free land and lots of other "carrots", SF will have a hard time attracting businesses, unless it creates a business promotion program and invests heavily to encourage the area to grow.

Surrounding the IPZ on the West and South would be a buffer zone, the same zoning as currently exists: M-1, which allows for light industrial business growth and for live-work units as a permitted use. More traditional housing would require the approval of the Planning Commission through the conditional use process.

The purpose of the buffer is to give the IPZ businesses enough room to breathe, while protecting buildings for the development of live-work units and artist performance spaces. Traditional housing would be permitted as a right further South, in what is being called the Housing Special Use District (HSUD). Here all uses, industrial, live-work and housing, will co-exist.



MISSION DISTRICT'S COMMUNITY BASED PLAN
FOR THE NORTHEAST MISSION INDUSTRIAL ZONE

revitalization, but also where a test of wills will come to bear--the will of the City versus the will of its inhabitants.

The Department of City Planning (DCP, began studying the NEMIZ's zoning back in 1988, as it does with areas where growth is possible but not taking place in any obvious or desired way or is inconsistent with zoning.

Mission District leaders rallied behind Angelica Chiong when she was appointed to be the Mission District Planner and to continue the NEMIZ study. The appointment was part of a demonstration to see if and how community-based planning can work, with the notion being that planning ought to be done within the community for the community.

However, the City (or at least Kent Sims [a man without an office or authority, according to some]), is saying no to the community rezoning plan. Instead, it is considering reserving 6 million square feet of the NEMIZ for bio-technical industries. The area would include over 50 square blocks. So far, all the talking has been behind closed doors. Worse, all developments in the area have been denied help by the City's administrative staff.

More than two years have past since people in the community and the DCP have been meeting to discuss and resolve the zoning for the NEMIZ. So without any further delay, here is the plan:

An Industrial Protection zone (IPZ) would be created in the North-Eastern area. The IPZ will be about 25 square blocks large and would

Immediately West of the buffer and South of the HSUD would be designated Service/Light Industrial Residential District (SLR). This designation is designed to maintain and facilitate the growth and expansion of small scale light industrial, home and business service, wholesale distribution, arts production and performance/exhibition activities.

This zoning plan is only the first step to enhance the mixed-use quality of the NEMIZ.

This community- developed plan was based on many value judgements. Specifically, that the NEMIZ and the Mission District should encourage the development of jobs for Mission District residents. Currently, 19% of employees from the area reside in the Mission.

The plan also offers housing opportunities that residents can afford. The area contains 26 "highly suitable" housing sites, according to the most recent DCP evaluation of the area.

Lastly, the plan will enhance opportunities for artists. By providing live/work proponents a competitive edge over traditional housing developers in the M-1 and by zoning for performance spaces through the SLR, the community is hoping artists will flourish more easily.

Those involved--including property owners, businesses, artists, both live/work and traditional housing developers, and advocates for all sides--have signed on to support the community plan. It makes a lot of sense.

THOUGHTS ON NATIONAL SERVICE -Peter Gabel



New College President Peter Gabel

The "old" democratic party philosophy reflected in both the New Deal and the Great Society programs emphasized a modest redistribution of wealth to provide greater economic protection for workers, the poor, and the elderly, as well as the expansion of civil rights to try to create "equality of opportunity" for those who suffered from discrimination. However important these liberal reforms were, they did not directly challenge the individualism of American society, but rather sought to ameliorate its worst injustices through taxation (in the case of entitlement programs) and legal decrees (in the case of, say, affirmative action). A negative result of this "old" liberal perspective has been that it has communicated a contradictory message. On the one hand, people have been told that their worth depends on their ability to succeed on their own individual merit, and that they deserve what they reap in the competitive marketplace; on the other, the government says they must pay taxes and give up rights to help others doing less well (when nobody helped them). This contradiction has been one source of the resentment against tax-and-spend liberalism. Another related source has been the perceived failure of the recipients of rights and benefits to act responsibly or to give anything back to society (which the system's core value of individualism does not encourage or expect them to do). The overall dynamic has contributed significantly to the perception of the recipients of rights and entitlements as special-interest groups selfishly manipulating the political process for benefits they have not earned and do not deserve.

President Clinton's conception of national service is based on a vision of civic obligation and social relatedness that goes beyond the earlier model. It assumes that people are not simply disconnected individuals who want to "look out for number 1," but rather find meaning and gain self-worth through their relationship to others. One aspect of this more communal conception of self and other is expressed in the emphasis on the capacity of national service to build bonds of "affection and communal concern" to overcome the "moral complacency" fostered by hyper-individualism and to "build social solidarity and counteract forces in our pluralistic culture that engender anomie and alienation".

A second aspect of this new self-other conception is the idea that government assistance reflects a real social relationship, that while society as a whole should assure that everyone can go to college, the same communal concern should be reflected in what the aid-recipient does with his/her education. This way of linking rights and responsibilities is not punitive toward those who can't afford an education (as is the conservative version of, say, welfare-reform) but rather is meant to validate a sense of relationship or reciprocity that is needed for people to feel part of a meaningful community. It would be a great contribution to American culture if millions of people began to internalize this ethic during the formative years of 18 to 25.

Clinton's plan seems to contemplate a highly decentralized model in which the federal government plays only a marginal role in determining what students

are supposed to get out of national service and what they will actually do. The assumption seems to be that the placement itself—with a child-care center, an elderly person in need of care, or an understaffed juvenile hall—will do the ideological work contemplated by the program.

Past experience indicates that this is not true. Many people who are simply placed in a public-service settings as part of existing state-supported service plans or apprenticeship programs like that at New College of California can find themselves performing menial jobs like getting coffee or cleaning latrines. In the absence of real training, good supervision, and a clear understanding by both the student and the recipient institution of what both parties are supposed to get out of the relationship, the student often drifts around, uncommitted, in the background of the placement, while the recipient institution colludes because it does not know what to do with the student. Whatever its initial enthusiasm for participating in a National Service program, a child-care center will often find that it does not need or want a random, untrained twenty-year-old with no supervision or clearly-defined role in the institution. He or she may be more of an insurance risk than an engaged participant in a great national experiment. Although hands-on public-service often does increase the server's sense of compassion and his or her awareness of what life is like beyond the limited horizon of his or her upbringing, such placements are also often experienced as dull and as the mere fulfillment of a legal obligation. Even good placement-experiences are unlikely to really change people if they are disconnected from any larger context that gives them meaning and purpose.

For National Service to have the kind of cultural impact, the leadership of the program must develop a list of values that is supposed to inform each student's placement. One value would presumably be that the student accomplish something beneficial for the recipient or recipient institution during the period of service. This requires careful attention to the nature of the placement, the kind of skills-training provided, the cultural context of the placement and how national-service corps members are expected to be integrated into it, and an analysis of the types of roles that can effectively be performed.

A second value that I believe is essential if national service is really to help forge a new sense of civic commitment and social solidarity is that the placement-experience be meaningful to the server, not just useful for the recipient. Historically, service in the military has been meaningful to many because they felt they were ennobling themselves by defending their country. The same aspiration should animate the design of civilian service—for the larger vision to work, people need to feel they are gaining a sense of worth in themselves by giving to the society and that hundreds of thousands of other people are doing the same thing. This cannot happen unless the program leadership both inspires the corps members and the recipient institutions to want to create placements that approach this ideal, and develops practical criteria for designing, supervising, and evaluating placements. Innovative processes may need to be developed to sustain corps members' sense of higher purpose—for example, it may be desirable for all corps members in a given area to meet on a monthly basis to discuss what they think they are accomplishing, with a national-service supervisor present to direct the discussion and direct feedback to Washington. Model placements that best accomplish the deeper aims of the program should be videotaped and serve as role-models for new corps members.

There is more to say about the way that National Service could lead to major changes in education, especially college curricula, because it would create a "demand for empathy" rather than just more math, science, and computers. It is this dialogue that those of us who have been appointed to the Board of Supervisor's new Commission on National Service hope to bring to the people of San Francisco and to the country as it embarks on an important new social movement.

SUMMER OF SERVICE



President Clinton is proposing a program of national and community service to involve college age students in social action as a way to pay for their education. This summer, a pilot program - *Summer of Service* - is taking place in 16 metropolitan areas around the country focusing on the needs of children at risk. The training for 1500 participants took place in San Francisco from June 19-26.

The New College of California, whose goal is to integrate education and social change, provided an introduction and training focused on problems being faced by Mission District youth - at risk to nearly 100 of the Summer of Service(S.O.S.) participants.

The S.O.S. participants, representing Atlanta, Harlem, Newark, Ohio, New Orleans and Philadelphia, came to New College on Tuesday, 6/22/93 and Wednesday 6/23/93 to meet with Mission youth advocates, community activists and young people. Presenters included Mitchell Salazar, Director of RAP (Real Alternatives Program), David Escobar, former gang member and President of *ALIANZA*, a Latino advocacy organization in the Mission, Vickie Rega, a parent representative to the school district, Andy Solow, a Mission District community activist and several youth from the Mission.

In addition, Peter Gabel, President of New College, who spearheaded the establishment of

a Board of Supervisors Task Force on National Service for San Francisco and who wrote a position paper on the history and political meaning of National Service for the Clinton transition team, addressed the trainees.

There were a number of themes stressed in the presentations. First, it was felt that a national effort for community service needs to be more the use of college students to stretch the delivery of dwindling services. Unmet service needs are created by a social and economic structure which does not provide for its communities. A national service effort must help organize communities to create necessary social change. Additionally, it should develop processes which are meaningful to both those being served and those doing the community service. The community service done by participants on SOS Project Days reflected this approach:

- creating a participatory theater piece with Mission youth on the need for recreational areas (performed at the proposed soccer field site in Dolores Park);

- training in the use of video to explore social issues of concern to children at risk.

- helping community residents to create a community mural in a drug and violence plagued alley the Clarion Alley Mural Project.

- Michael J. McAvoy



Summer

New College of California June 22 & 23, 1993

Participatory Theater / ALIANZA

ALIANZA is a grass roots, non-incorporated, non-funded Latino advocacy organization. Its objectives are to advocate issues affecting Latinos, organize and train indigenous Latino leadership and assist in the development of latino advocacy organizations. On the S.O.S. project days, David Aldape, Alianza Technical Advisor led a workshop with S.O.S. participants on the use of theater to examine political, economic and cultural barriers to communities' receiving the necessary services they need (in this case soccer fields for Latino youth) and ways to use theater to advocate politically for achieving needed services. The S.O.S. Mime Troup then performed their piece in Dolores Park at the site of the proposed soccer fields.

New College Community Action Media Lab

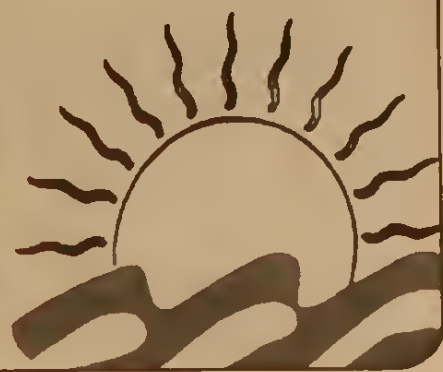
The Community Action Media Lab is being developed by the Center for Community Action, Research and Education at New College to provide training for students and community in the use of media(video, film, journalism, radio, photography, etc.) to promote social change. On S.O.S. project days, participants used video, photography and journalistic techniques to document the activities. The documentation (of the Alianza theater piece) will be used to educate Mission youth about recreational needs, political process and community organizing.

Clarion Alley Mural Project(CAMP)

The Clarion Alley Mural Project is an attempt by community people to transform a site of drug dealing and violence to something more hospitable. Six activists and artists (Rigo 93, Aaron Noble, Mary Gail Snyder, Segastiana Pastor and Aracely Soriano) have organized themselves and a number of Mission community agencies such as Creativity Explored, Swords to Plowshares, RAP and others to acquire the permission and resources to turn Clarion Alley into a mural site based on the well known Balmy Alley. Summer of Service participants toured Balmy Alley and upon their return helped prepare the alley and walls for the second phase of murals to begin in July.



of Service



Editor: Michael McAvoy Production: Mack Miller

Contributors: David Aldape from ALIANZA, Erick Gordon, Jenna MacGillis, Gia Maria Amella

Paul Rendon, (CAMP); Michael O'Connor, Mary Gail Snyder, Aracely Soriano, Rigo '93 Photos; Summer of Service Participants



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NO FEAR, NO DIE

Claire Denis' directorial debut was the beautiful and fluid *CHOCOLATE*, a remembrance of things past in her African childhood. In *NO FEAR, NO DIE*, Denis has constructed an extraordinary tale of two black men who have immigrated to France, one from Benin in Africa, the other from the French West Indies. The two men become involved in supplying fighting cocks for pit duels staged by a sleazy restaurateur. A film shot though with palpable sexual and existential tension, it cherishes the beauty, strength and inevitable fates of caged exotics, whether birds or men. "Fabulously intimate... a moving and complex mystery. Spectacular... astonishing!" - Lisa Kennedy, *VILLAGE VOICE*. "The work of a daring, accomplished, unpredictable artist... extraordinary visual images." - Caryn James, *NEW YORK TIMES*. With Isaach de Bankote, Alex Descas, Jean-Claude Brialy and Solveig Dommartin. Written and directed by Claire Denis. In Color. 35mm. 91 mins. 1992. In French, with English subtitles.

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SATAN'S BREW

☐ WED at 2:00, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:15

☐ THUR at 7:00 & 9:15

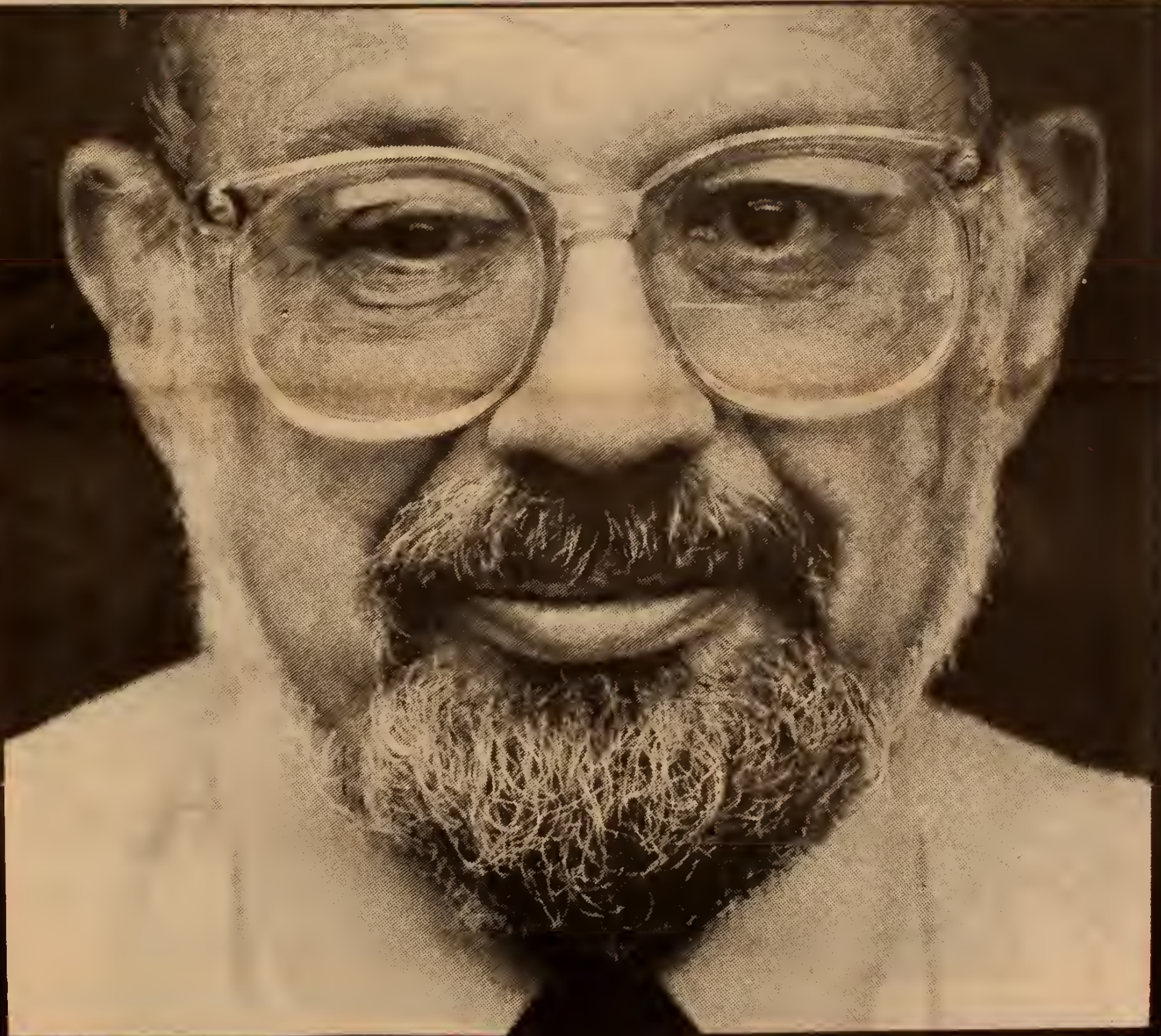


☐ Fri • July 23 —
TIME INDEFINITE

Ross McElwee's earlier film, *SHERMAN'S MARCH*, is among the most witty, charming and insightful of American independent diary films. Now McElwee takes up his camera where he left off as he decides to marry and is faced with the (mostly unwanted) advice of friends and family. His father gives off "a Freudian force field" that inevitably screws up the shooting. Old pal Charleen gets into the act as Ross and his wife struggle with whether to begin a family. And Ross gives new meaning to the leisure time activity of fishing when he demands to know, "Does a fish have a soul? Can a fish sin? and Does God take all fish into heaven?" A must-see for Ross McElwee's legion of fans and for those lucky enough to be meeting this uniquely American filmmaker for the first time. Written and directed by Ross McElwee. In Color. 35mm. 115 mins. 1993 USA.

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The notion of displaced workers seizing not only the means of production but the outlets and financial underpinnings of same is, by any standard, fantasy... achievable fantasy, certainly, if people put their heads together and follow Step 1, Step 2, Step 3, and so on, but fantasy all the same because San Francisco progressives rarely can get their own house in order long enough to mount offensive efforts.

No, most of what victories have occurred have been defensive struggles...crusades against highrise controls, rent controls, condo controls, bigots, money-sucking stadium plans, waterfront hotels, and the like...in which an outside speculative spectre looms fearsome enough to compel the City's fractured progressives to set aside their feuds long enough to slay the dragon-of-the-month.

Fortunately (?) the Mission faces at least three mid-term menaces that can either be turned to advantage by a pre-emptive strike or faced down later. Obviously, my own preference is for the former, my suspicion as to what will really happen is the latter. All are old foes (so old, in fact, that they might even be regarded as old friends) that just keep climbing out of the grave like in the monster movies at the Strand; old-timers know them well but, for the benefit of Mission newcomers, here's the triple-bill...Van Ness/Mission Gateway, Mission Bay, and The Stadium That Never Dies.

DRAGON AT THE MISSION'S GATE

Among the few victories of the Mission community at the City Planning Commission was the defeat of two of the three proposals by indicted developer Richard Deringer to build highrise offices and/or luxury condos on what he called the Van Ness Gateway Corridor; several plots of land holding a Firestone Dealership, City Builders, a residential hotel (since demolished), and several parking lots and flea markets running from the freeway overpass that is the Mission's northern boundary to the chaotic intersection of Mission,

South Van Ness, 12th, and Otis Streets just one block South of Market.

If maximizing the monetary return of land were the sole criteria, Van Ness Gateway Center could have been feasible. Unfortunately, while Deringer, his lobbyists, attorneys, and paid-off politicians envisioned the development as a continuation of the Van Ness Avenue complex of government buildings and luxury condos like Opera Plaza, residents of the Mission and South of Market correctly perceived the intrusion as a death sentence for

If there is housing but not enough commercial space, the people will lack for jobs. If office development crowds out affordable housing there will be more crime and homelessness. If the need for both jobs and housing creates overcrowding, there will be a lack of amenities like open space and transportation will be difficult.

Deringer's projects would have destroyed these fragile balances and they were rejected despite the intervention of big-time fixers including Duane Garrett, a representative of the

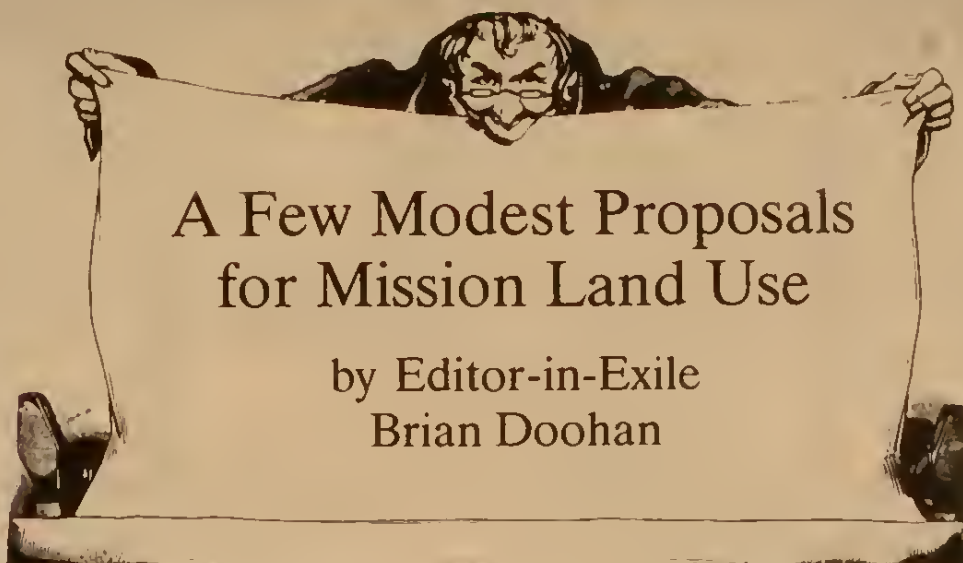
failed to impress either City planners or financiers.

Thus the land is up for grabs along with two large properties on either side of Mission—an abandoned Coca Cola bottling plant that extends as far north as 11th street and the former offices of the Recorder newspaper, reaching almost to Howard, where the former Ron Greenspan auto dealership also sits vacant across the street. Being the gateway not to Van Ness Avenue and the Civic Center but to the Mission, the southern edge of this contested property is only a block from another embarrassing eyesore—the Mission Armory.

Proposal: Preserving the character and affordability of the Mission and South of Market while making every effort to promote jobs for residents dictates an overall plan for the area instead of piecemeal schemes devised to reap short-term financial gain. Fortunately, the recession has taken much of the steam out of speculative real estate swindles and the opportunity to assemble these properties and plan their development.

Of the commercial options available, using some of this property to develop a Latin American trade center would provide the most optimal mix of blue and white collar jobs. The Firestone property would be best suited for this use as construction of a six-to-ten-story building with a mercado on the ground floor and showrooms, warehouse space, and offices on the upper floors would provide both the desired employment mix and offer the architectural opportunity to reconcile the diverse visions of the Mission and Van Ness Avenue by making a clear statement that here begins one of San Francisco's unique and valuable neighborhoods.

This statement could be enhanced and at least some of the terrible traffic problems ameliorated by redesigning the aforesaid intersection as a great circle containing an interior plaza. Such circles are common in both Spain and many Latin American capitals, often with a central monument commemorating a historic figure.



affordable housing and neighborhood business.

Municipal zoning...when not tainted by corruption...has its own rules of turf and territorial delineation that are as formal as the boundaries street gangs set between themselves. There is a commercial or financial district, neighborhood retail areas, housing for the rich and for the poor, industrial and institutional zones, parks, parking lots and other facilities. Sometimes, as with the Northeast Mission Industrial Zone, there may a mishmash of uses but, on the whole, a rough balance prevails.

conservative wing of the Democratic Party. His only "success" was in convincing the Bureau of Building Inspections to issue a spurious fire-damage report leading to the demolition of the Evergreen Hotel and the construction of a small office building that he could not afford to finish.

When Deringer was caught cooking his books to fix this and other dubious ventures, the property passed into the hands of some amateur South Bay condo developers whose plans for hundreds of flimsy, expensive boxes for white yuppies at the doorstep of the Mission

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The Coca Cola property would be reserved for office development, the Recorder site (which borders existing residential streets) for housing. Auto related business would be encouraged to migrate from the Autocenter to the Greenspan lot, freeing up 16th & Bryant for stadium use.

The Armory is a thornier matter. It's trapped in a Catch-22 situation preventing development as a media center or other constructive use because the cost of asbestos removal exceeds the value of the building but landmark preservation laws prohibit its demolition. These are both California laws, but state representatives like John Burton, Willie Brown, and Quentin Kopp have proven unable or unwilling to effect a solution. Perhaps we need new state legislators!

One piece of the puzzle has already been put in place. After its intestinal voyage through the bankruptcy courts, the Deringer office building on the Evergreen Hotel site, with a book value of about \$17 million, was purchased by the City for \$5 million and will be the future home of departments like City Planning, Building Inspections, etc. Having saved \$12 million through the efforts of the Mission, one would hope that City Hall would show the appropriate gratitude in drafting and implementing zoning policies that maximize employment opportunities without jeopardizing the neighborhood's affordable housing and retail resources.

MISSION BAY

The largest undeveloped land parcel remaining in the City, Mission Bay, despite its name, is not part of the Mission but is situated to the northeast by the Bay, also adjoining Showplace Square, the South of Market, and the foot of Potrero Hill. However, the nature of its development will impact all of its neighbors for either good or ill and what goes on there cannot be ignored by those seeking to preserve or improve the Mission's qualities of life.

As the former Southern Pacific railroad, Mission Bay's developer is an SP hybrid, the Catullus Corporation, staffed by relatively inexperienced land use people who are also meddling with SP's property on the Berkeley waterfront. Catullus was a Roman poet and

playboy with a talent for sarcastic verses about his former lovers—the Corporation, however, has been more a victim of a lover spurned.

A few years back they went to the voters with a complicated proposal mixing office and residential uses and, as their formula provided twice as many jobs as housing units and would further have required the City to subsidize the affordability of the latter, draining funding from the Mission and other neighborhoods, Catullus interviewed political consultants to wage a campaign of lies and deceit. Among those rejected was Clint Reilly, who had gained fortune working for landlords and big insurance companies and would go on to be fired by Dianne Feinstein and rebound with fame and fractures with Frank Jordan.

A wealthy man, Reilly took his humiliation personally and pulled a Catullus against Catullus Corp., which furthered its own doom by wrapping the project in Art Agnos' coattails. Since the crash of the real estate market, Catullus has been reduced to sly attempts to insinuate itself into the downtown stadium negotiations by offering its worst land "free" in exchange for benefits to be named later...and joined in this exercise of imbecility by the new Giants' owners, who are even less experienced at running a baseball team than Catullus is in real estate development, and by Mayor Jordan, whose qualities are known to all.

Clint Reilly, Jordan's puppetmaster, has been content to operate behind the scenes and feels no obligation to wise his dummy up to Catullus. He's a professional, after all, and there's bound to be another election contract down the road.

Proposal: Mission Bay proves that you don't send a railroad company out to develop jobs and housing unless you're prepared to get railroaded.

The bottom line is a roughly equal jobs/housing mix. The sort of low rise "back office" structures (cheap to build, cheap to tear down) in the original proposal were the best part of Catullus' offer...they could be converted to light industry or research facilities as the automation that has decimated American manufacturing jobs gains a chokehold on repetitive white collar functions.

One innovative answer to the persistent problem of University expansion is to situate the most exotic gene splicing and germ war labs

right next to the Bay. The Richmond and Sunset districts have already kicked UC out, the Regents are trying to sucker the Mission into taking the labs without any tangible concessions such as increasing their facilities to turn out more obstetricians, nutritionists, and bullet-hole sewer-uppers that are of more use to the neighborhood than salting tomatoes with chicken genes...it still won't fly. Put the labs in Mission Bay and let the deadly effluents float out over the Bay to Oakland.

On the housing end, the City should refuse to commit even one dime of subsidy to Catullus, no matter how affordable the railroad people promise to make 5 or even 10% of their properties. In fact, Catullus shouldn't even be allowed to break ground. The City and the Corporation should agree on a fair division of the rezoning windfall, and the property should be broken up into parcels and sold, one lot at a time, to prospective homebuilders and small construction companies.

When tourists and experts gush over the virtues of San Francisco's residential architecture, they're not talking about planned developments in South Beach or even the Sunset, but about the blocks upon blocks of Victorians and other structures built (in an utter absence of codes) by or to the specifications of the people who would live in them. We can enhance the City's architectural heritage and diversity by encouraging experimentation—even to extent of apportioning a fifth or a quarter of rezoning loot to exempt new homeowners from property taxes for the first five or ten years that they live in houses that they built or commissioned from local contractors.

The rest should be shoveled into affordable housing with acquisition and rehab of existing slum properties taking precedence over new construction. Period.

to be continued...

Next month: The Stadium that Won't Die



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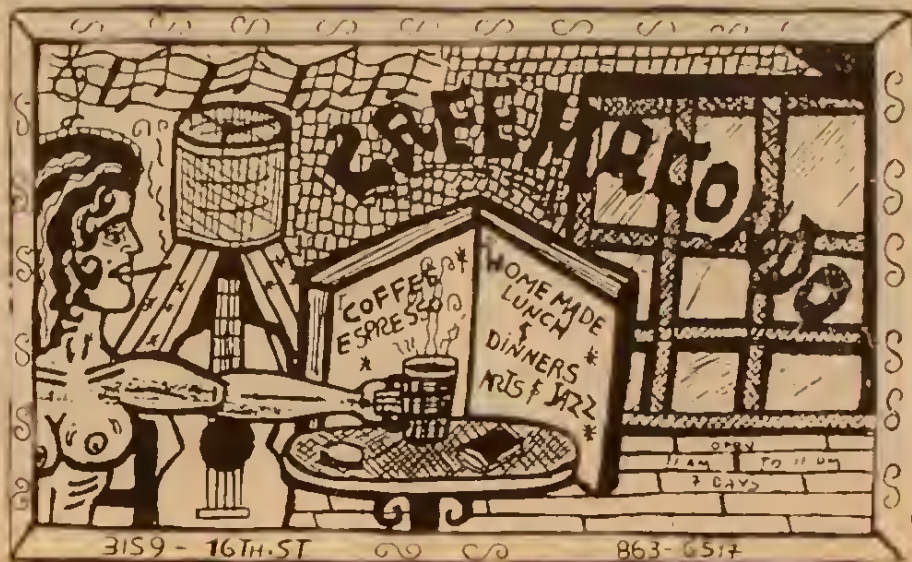
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Changing with the Times

24th St Merchant Plans for Healthier Future



GATEWAY OWNER FAISEL JABER. Photo by NAJIB JOE HAKIM.

by Gary Byrd

Tapping into a current health-conscious trend, a Mission merchant has replaced cases of liquor with cases of health food, a switch the merchant hopes is good for the community and better for his pocketbook.

The Mission has one of the highest liquor stores to population ratios in the City which has many community groups drunk with enthusiasm to stop transfers of liquor licenses and to put a moratorium on issuing new licenses to sell liquor by petitioning every notice to sell alcohol.

The owner of Gateway Natural Foods and Spirits, Faisal Jaber, is continuing to take bottles of liquor from his shelves and to replace them with fruits, vegetables and healthy snacks. The demand for more outlets carrying health foods is what Jaber heard from his cus-

tomers and he is giving them what they want.

"I'm not afraid to change my church," said Jaber. "This change [to selling health food] puts me years ahead my competition."

When Jaber moved into his current location fifteen years ago his shelves were stocked with cases of beer, cheap wine and cartons of cigarettes.

"There was a sign outside that said if you're under 21-years-old you're not allowed," said Jaber.

Over the past several years, however, Jaber slowly moved away from selling alcohol in bulk and toward health food products. The alcohol he still sells is of a substantially higher quality than in years past.

"I have a good relationship with the people in this neighborhood," said Jaber. "Many of them have come here for years."

Like barber shops of yesteryears, a handful of Jaber's friends from the neighborhood come to the market to kill time and talk over the news of the day for hours on end.

Sitting behind the counter in a suit and tie, Alfred Victoria is in the market on a daily basis. He uses it as a home port to meet with other neighbors and friends.

"I'm here every day," said Victoria, "I help Phil [Jaber] out."

These "steady Freddies" as Jaber calls them, were instrumental in the change from selling alcohol in bulk to health food at Gateway. During the daily informal meetings the "steady Freddies" would tell Jaber that he needed to carry healthier foods at his market and over a period of time Jaber began implementing their suggestions.

The switch from selling only alcohol to a wide array of health food was risky because Jaber needed to round up a different clientele while investing buckets of money in new products, but Jaber was willing to take the risk because health food would reach a broader group bringing in more customers and more money.

Jaber is convinced that eating healthier foods will be a long-term trend in the Mission, especially among immigrants.

"People come from countries where they eat healthy and natural foods," said Jaber, "they want to eat healthy food here too."

Not only did Jaber feel there was a need

for a health food store on 24th and Folsom, but the customers that frequented his market before he stocked health food were often shady characters that would try to slide out of the store without paying.

"People would come in and I would have to watch them so they wouldn't steal anything," said Jaber. "I don't like weed money, I like flower money."

But things haven't been all roses for Jaber. A health food bin, Bud's Ice Cream counter and natural food section have been installed to attract a new breed of clientele, but business is still down.

Although he is encouraged by more people strolling up and down his aisles since he converted the liquor barn into a neighborhood health market, Gateway is falling short of his expectations.

Like other Mission merchants, Jaber is feeling the sting of the recession and the criminal element driving customers away from his market. Jaber is working with other Mission residents and merchants in the Inner Mission Neighbors to find solutions to the problem of dangerous streets. So far the streets are getting worse. Unswayed, Jaber is confident that business will pick up.

"I have the best corner in the City," said Jaber as he looked into the street, "and the best clientele in the world, they will keep telling their friends about this place."

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Maximum Coffee

by Michael Ceaser

Are you reading this in a cafe that's loud, smoky, and so crowded that the chess players at the next table keep elbowing you with every move?

If you are, then consider checking out Muddy's, the new cafe at 24th and Mission, where the tables are set far apart, voices seem softer and the indoor smog level is relatively low.

This is the second caffeinated venture for Muddy's co-owner, Isham Masarweh (his wife Elham is his partner), who also co-owns Muddy Waters cafe near 16th. Muddy's has 14 different beans, each of them ground to order and delivered fresh every Tuesday. Isham says that, like Muddy Waters, Muddy's will specialize in strong, potent stuff designed to get you going in the morning. In fact, he explains: "Our espresso doesn't come in small, medium and large--just in double strength." Muddy's also features the same popular blend of house coffee which 'The Waters' does. "It's been good to us and to our customers," Isham says.

Also like 'The Waters,' Muddy's has an overstuffed couch against its back wall, but the similarity ends there: At the new cafe, Isham has had much more room to work with. A long bench runs lines the inside wall, to give the place a 'parklike' feel; the tables are spaced generously far apart, and there's even an open area in the center (unheard of in other Mission cafes), so large that while I was there, a boy kicked a soccer ball around in it. The high ceilings and large windows also add to the feeling of spaciousness--and to the dissipation of cigarette smoke.

This roominess makes Muddy's a nice place for bicycles, which can easily be brought inside, and for chess. It is the most smoke-free place this writer has found yet in which to lose at that game.

Isham hopes that, as with 16th street around the time that Muddy Waters opened, the opening of Muddy's will invigorate the corner of Valencia near 24th.

"Since Muddy Waters opened two years ago, many new cafes, restaurants and bookstores have opened nearby and made the area much nicer. And we feel very good about

being a part of that," he says. He doesn't mind competition from other coffeehouses. "The variety of places draws people into the neighborhood, keeps the streets safer at night and gives people choices about where to go."

According to Isham, business was slow at the beginning, but the new cafe has been building up a loyal clientele. During the evening which I spent in Muddy's (which will probably not be my last one), it was quite busy; both before dinner, with an almost exclusively Spanish speaking clientele, and later on, with English speakers. A large group of English-speaking people came in and practiced their Spanish conversation; one woman tutored another in English. Muddy's is quiet enough to do that sort of thing.

Isham is an unlikely cafe owner, as he grew up in Jordan and drank only tea until he and a business partner opened up Muddy Waters. "But once I tried the house blend," he recalls, "I was hooked." And co-owning two cafes takes a lot of time, so much that he never has a chance to sit around in cafes himself. But he enjoys being able to provide people with a nice place to relax, and asserts that, unlike some cafes in Berkeley, he will never establish time limits at his tables. "It brings a big smile to my face to see that somebody likes my place enough to spend a few hours here," he says.

I did find a few things which could be improved upon. Although Isham says he plans to increase it, the food selection is sparse, bagels being the only really substantial offering.

Muffins would help a lot. And, although Muddy's roominess keeps the air cleaner than in most cafes, the designated non-smoking area is very small.

A nice thing about Muddy's are the high walls, which provide a large display area for artists and now happen to be adorned with work by the Mission News's art consultant, Mario Joel. (The News offers you its unbiased advice to hurry down to Muddy's right away and buy up all of Joel's work, because he is about to become famous.)

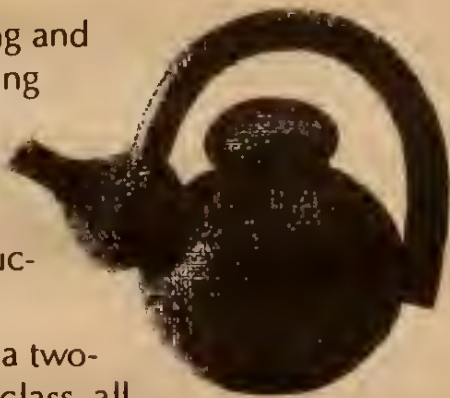
But even if you're not an art customer, there are still plenty of reasons to visit Muddy's, namely Isham's three ingredients for a successful cafe: quick service, a nice atmosphere and a good cup of coffee.



MUDDY'S OWNER ISHAM MASARWEH. Photo by NAJIB JOE HAKIM.

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people who I see panhandling or in soup lines. They see the road of double crossing, broken promises and the lies of union leaders, politicians, the police - even crippled government agencies. These younger people refuse

David Spero



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Boxing Program Rabbit Punched

On June 18, 1993, the Precita Valley Community Center (PVCC) Youth Boxing Program (Sonny Marson, dba M & M Boxing Inc.) was served with a "Three Day Notice To Surrender Possession". The notice was prepared by D. Austin Lewis Esq. and the Law offices of Gordon & Rees acting on behalf of Mission Neighborhood Centers, Santiago Ruiz (Executive Director), and Jason Gallegos (PVCC Director).

The notice was preceded by two letters to Marson dated May 27 and June 14, 1993. Both letters claim that Marson made a verbal agreement to move his Boxing Program out of the Precita Valley Community Center Gym on or before June 15. Marson claims that he never made any such agreement and has retained an attorney to fight the eviction.

The letters were prepared by a second Gordon & Rees attorney, Victor M. Marquez Esq.

but somewhat mysteriously refer to a third attorney, Robert S. Alberty, also of Gordon & Rees, as the Attorney of record.

As of June 28, the PVCC Youth Boxing Program is still operating out of the PVCC gymnasium. The Program is currently serving 30 to 40 clients per day five or six days per week; approximately half young adults and half teenagers. Several promising local fighters including 15 year old Angelo Aroche, the 1993 Northern California Regional Junior Olympic Champion in the #119 class, train regularly at the gym.

The gym is open from 4 - 8:30 pm. Coaches include Sonny Marson - President USABF-NORCAL, Johnny Vidalaka: Johnny Carnation from Newman's Gym, Joey and J.C. Comacho and several professional fighters including Eddie Croft, Pat Lawlor, and Danny Maguire.

Disaster



Photo by Frances Barajas-Lona

The S.F. Fire Department, in a program underwritten by Chevron, has trained over 1,220 people to respond to emergency disasters such as this staged fire at 19th & Folsom Streets on June 29th. The Fire Department's NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (NERT) teaches San

Francisco residents about earthquake awareness, hazardous materials, utility control, fire suppression, disaster medicine, and light search and rescue. NERT was formed as a response to the Loma Prieta quake to help prepare individuals to deal with emergencies. City budget cuts now jeopardize this program.

Kids Only at Mission Library?

The Mission library is one of only five library branches in the City that will remain open under a current plan of the Jordan Administration. The Main Library will offer reduced services to all of the City's adults and children. The plan was developed this spring when Jordan told the library to cut \$3.6 million from its 1993-1994 budget.

Although Mission is the last major branch library in the City scheduled for a year-long shutdown for renovation and earthquake-proofing at a cost of over \$800,000, when it reopens it may no longer provide library services for adults. Mission neighborhood organizations have supported special state and federally funded programs at Mission branch aimed at Spanish speaking refugees of all ages. These programs have made the Mission one of the most heavily used branches in the City and many of its patrons are the least able to afford to pay for library services because they are on fixed incomes.

Plans to find the Mission library a temporary site during the renovation shutdown are now clouded by the controversy surrounding a proposed library parcel tax. The property tax was the subject of a special hearing of the S.F. Library Commission in June.

At the hearing, both tenant and landlord advocates threatened to defeat the parcel tax at the polls in November. If voters reject the new tax, the Mayor's budget plan will fund public libraries only until November of 1993,

After that, neighborhood library service for adults is threatened with extinction.

Under an annual flat-rate parcel tax Jordan is considering, a single family residence would pay \$46. Renters would pay \$23 which will be passed through to them by their landlord, who will also pay \$23. There would be a variable rate for commercial parcels. The Library Commission, dominated by downtown corporate vice-presidents from Chase Manhattan Bank, Pacific Stock Exchange, and Pacific Bell, has not provided the public with any information about the "variable rate."

Renters, single family homeowners and landlords all agreed that the "pass-through" provision may mean the tax will go down to defeat.

If some version of a parcel tax is approved, the additional revenues would enable the library to keep the neighborhood branches open for users of all ages and even to expand services, according to library administrators.

If the tax fails, library supporters fear the mayor and his supporters on the Board of Supervisors will treat the rejection as a mandate to eliminate the neighborhood branches or even privatize the New Main Library.

Mayor Jordan has until the third week in July to place his library parcel tax on the November ballot. The July Library Commission meeting may provide some answers about the future of the Mission library.

Stephen Pantos

Happy 8th Anniversary, Servio



BACK TO THE PICTURE OWNER SERIVO GOMEZ.
Photo by FRANCES BARAJAS LONA

by Gary Byrd

The idea of being framed and then hung conjures villainous images from old cowboy movies, but for Servio Gomez it's a matter of business.

Gomez, owner of Back to the Picture, has been in the framing business for 8 years and lately business has been booming.

"If your service is good," said Gomez, "people will respond."

And the response has been a 15 percent increase in revenue in 1993 which Gomez attributes to his low prices, good service and high quality merchandise. Service is the key to success because close attention to detail keeps customers coming back, said Gomez.

Back to the Picture, located at 934 Valencia, has had its doors open to the public for seven years, logging two years at the current 3,000 square foot space.

All of orders were custom made until recently. Now stacks of ready-made frames fill the front of the store and have contributed to the current rise in sales.

Behind the rows of partial frames and matting samples is an art gallery where Southwestern and Latin art hangs in frames made by Gomez. Latin art is the hottest seller and in particular, Frida Kahlo prints.

Custom orders are Gomez's forte comprising

the bulk of his sales (85 percent). If a client has an original piece of art he or she wants to be the centerpiece of a room, Gomez will guide the client to the style of frame most suitable for the setting. Gomez will visit a client's home to aid in the proper frame selection if he or she makes special arrangements.

The large selection offered by Gomez is essential to the success of his business because people's taste vary dramatically. Although the walls in Back to the Picture are lined with frames of differing width, thickness, style and color, Gomez finds that customers are in hot pursuit of gold-leafed frames.

The gilded frame starts as a piece of machined wood with the desired contours. It is then lightly painted with a glue-like substance to hold the gold in place. Later, when the gilder rubs his or her finger over the glue and it makes a high-pitched noise it is ready for gold leaf. (Gilders say that the glue is "singing for gold" when it squeaks.) After pressing on the tissue-thin sheets of gold the excess is brushed off and the finished product is ready for hanging.

Giving back to the community is a priority for Gomez. As a member of a local community group he networks with other residents and business owners and attempts to help solve some of the community's problems.



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Decade of Woman

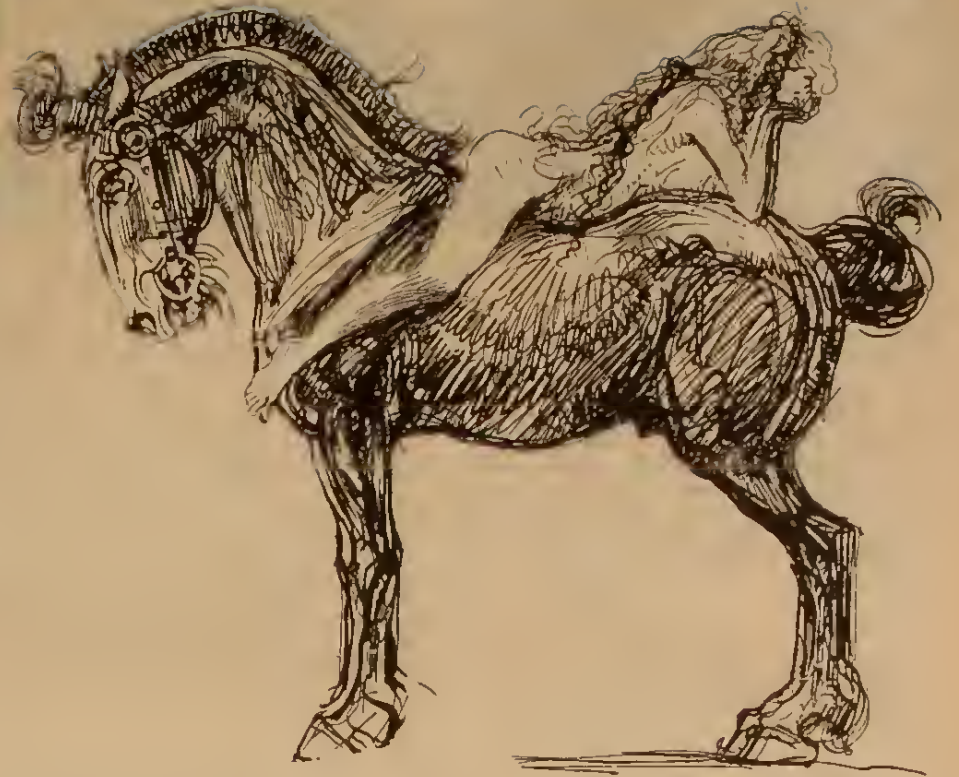
The emergence of women in the seventies came from the momentum of movements for peace and civil rights. In the sixties our work was integral to the success of those movements and went largely unacknowledged; our voices were often limited to asking, do you want sugar in your coffee? Our efforts were invisible, our voices were muted, our issues were subverted. Then in the seventies women just simply would not be silent any more. There was a great deal to say. The volume of these voices unnerved the established power brokers, shook the power structure.

In the eighties women worked quietly: focused on the tasks at hand, taking time out for introspection, preoccupied with survival issues. Women waited, rested, prepared for movement to the next level. I am sure there are those who had misinterpreted this metamorphic state as women's satisfaction with the preliminary results of feminist action. After all, for centuries women have made do with very little, made savings accounts from the change left over from food shopping allowances. A few managers here, a couple of non-traditional trades there; that's enough. This was a little more reward so it was assumed content had been reestablished and the masculine members of the power establishment could now smoke their cigars in benevolent, paternal bliss.

Nope. We are not complacent. Nope. It is not safe to take away abortion rights. Here we are in the nineties. Sexual harassment, child

molestation, battering, rape are being exposed as women's issues. These crimes are now being prosecuted by women lawyers, tried before women judges. Legal decisions are going in our favor. The women currently ascending to positions of power within the system are less and less saying - oh, I've never experienced discrimination because I am a woman. Recently women speak in voices that are clear and uncompromising. We have been denied, harassed and demeaned; and that will stop. Women again speak out; our days of subversion, charity and modesty are waning; giving way to an openly, firmly expressed attitude: no, I am not grateful for being the object of your affection; I earned the right to be here and I will be fully acknowledged. Women are empowered and now we own the authority of our experience, knowledge.

There is an amazing ascension and everywhere apparent manifestation of the feminine principle embodied in, symbolized by women's emergence within the system. Hillary Clinton insists that she be viewed as a whole person. She has not pretended she has no power, and she claims her authority as an advisor to the President. Ruth Ginsberg has been nominated as a Superior Court Justice. She forthrightly tells the story of Justice Frankfurter having told her that he had no need for a woman clerk. Even as Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer partnered to go at Jesse Helms' misogyny and homophobia, they have forged an unheard of alliance with each other as senators; no deals, only coopera-



tive leadership and consensus. They challenge the stereotype that women are naturally in competition with each other.

The bottom line symbol of the ascendancy of the feminine principle is the visibility of lesbians. Boxer and Feinstein worked up a sweat supporting and lobbying for Roberta Achtenberg as she persistently stood toe to toe with Jesse Helms. New Yorker and Newsweek magazines have recently published issues with cover stories about lesbians and lesbian chic. The President of NOW has acknowledged being in a relationship with a woman; twenty years ago NOW was distancing itself from lesbians in its membership. In an ideal sense a lesbian is a woman's woman. Our invisibility and silence has been routinely expected, enforced. For way too long lesbians were buried under everybody: men, gay men, straight

women. Something remarkable is happening with the emergence of this aspect of the feminine principle. Women in general are more willing to admit the depth of our love for, connection with and importance to each other regardless of any attempts to divide us by labels.

The Year of the Woman was only a hint of things to come in the Decade of Woman. It is not enough to have one woman on the Supreme Court. It is not enough to appoint only gay men, nonlesbian women and men of color to positions of power. The emergence of Hillary Rodham Clinton, Carol Mosley-Braun, Roberta Achtenberg, Ruth Ginsberg, Anita Hill, Thelma and Louise hint at what is now possible if we insist that not only women but the feminine principle will emerge as the power that is.

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Susan Leal Prioritizes The Mission

By David Spero

Supervisor Susan Leal may be a newcomer to the San Francisco political scene, but one thing is clear; she has hit the ground running. Sworn in June 7th, Leal has impressed both City Hall observers and neighborhood leaders with her intelligence and force of personality.

Leal showed her political skills by persuading Mayor Jordan to appoint her to the seat vacated by D.C. bound Roberta Achtenberg. Coming in late to the long five month appointment sweepstakes battle, she triumphed over conservative School Board member Carlotta Del Portillo and businesswoman and Community College Board member Maria Monet. Portillo had the backing of both Quentin Kopp and Dianne Feinstein. To counter her opponents advantage, Leal quickly hired a PR firm and gained support from powerful State Assemblyman John Vasconcellos and Congressman Henry Waxman. In meetings with Frank Jordan and his wife Wendy Paskin, Leal, in the words of a top Jordan aide "blew them away."

Her appointment won praise from the leaders of the Latino and gay/lesbian communities. A Latina lesbian, Leal gave a Jordan a "two for one." A self-described political moderate, Leal received support from liberals Art Agnos and Angela Alioto as well as editorial backing from the moderate San Francisco Examiner.

Leal, a native San Franciscan is a 43 year old lawyer and health care executive. She graduated from UC Berkeley in 1971 and from Berkeley's Bolt Hall School of Law in 1975. She currently lives in Noe Valley. From 1976 to 1983, Leal worked in the legislative branches of the state and federal government as a staff member for the State Assembly's Ways and Means Committee. She is currently vice-president of Health Care COMPARE Corporation, a firm that assists major corporations and unions in managing health care costs. Her experience with budgets and health care was a key factor in her appointment by Jordan, who has gone through four budget directors in six-

teen months. Leal jumped right into the task of tackling the proposed health department budget. "It's challenging and depressing" Leal said when asked about the proposed \$50 million in health care cuts at a recent meeting of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Democratic Club. "I'm bringing the message to business and labor about what the effects of these proposed cuts will be out there on the streets" said Leal. "I've met with Rich Cordoba of San Francisco General Hospital, and hope to come up with some ways to make our health care system more efficient and at the same time preserve health care delivery."

At her swearing in, Leal pledged to make the needs of the Mission District her top priority. Leal has done a walking tour of the neighborhood and has attended several neighborhood meetings on crime, gangs, and the needs of children in the Mission. Ninety percent of Mission residents are renters. At the Milk Club meeting, Leal said she supports the current rent control ordinance including the recently adopted Proposition H which further restricted the annual allowable rent increases for tenants. Leal stated she is leaning against vacancy rent control. Of key interest to both tenants and landlord groups will be Leal's vote on Mayor Jordan's legislation to allow more condominium conversions. On raising revenue for MUNI, Leal voiced support for Supervisor Sue Bierman's downtown property transit assessment district which would raise \$30 million for MUNI by taxing downtown commercial property owners. Leal appears to be aligned with the Board's fiscal moderates, "I'm going to vote against most pay raises and vote for most tax increases," she said. She expressed her admiration for Carole Migden and Barbara Kaufman and criticized the recent rise in anti-immigrant feelings in the City, "What irks me a lot is when people blame the undocumented for many of the city's problems, or when people say that our benefit programs are causing people to flock to San Francisco. That thinking is just wrong."



Mission residents will have an opportunity to meet Susan Leal at an open air open house at the 24th St. Mini-Park (between

Bryant and Potrero) on Saturday July 24th
between noon and two.

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"I like the idea that bikers are secretly reveling in something only named by French feminist theorists, though it's a form of decentered desexualized erotic practice spiced up with will-to-power and flirtation with death." —Rebecca Solnit

"I shifted, turning slightly away from him. I had to suppress a chuckle, being presented with such a small town scenario: a parked car, an older homosexual who gets boys drunk, inhabitants of the night and their seedy rituals. The casting was less than flattering."

D-L Alvarez



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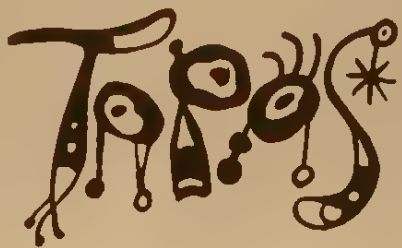
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Thursday, July 1

Keith Haring's Your Idol? - RWM Playwrights Lah breaks bysterical ground with the SF premiere of KEITH HARING'S MY IDOL, a repertory presentation of plays by legendary New York playwright Larry Myers. The line up includes SMALL TOWN GALS WITH BIG PROBLEMS, WHITE BOYS CAN'T RAP, and X-MAS A GO-GO. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia (@ 22nd). Thursdays-Sundays throughout July. 8:30 p.m. \$7-12. 641-0235.

Friday, July 2

Golden Filled Quirk - Night of "Quirky Country"/Rock music by The Buckets. Ed's Redeeming Qualities do "Loved-Filled Harmonies". Then watch a documentary about the endangered Mexican rainforest "Los Chimalapas" titled "Gourd of Gold" directed by Bay Area video-maker Mike Kavanagh. All happening at Komotion, 2779 16th St. 9 pm. \$5 and for a good cause. Call 647-7442.

Saturday, July 3

Eye Walks - Walking tours of Mission district murals with an introductory slide talk by a muralist from Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center. 348 Precita 1:30 p.m. \$3 general \$2 seniors \$1 kids/students. Call 285-2287. Also on July 10, 17, 24 and 31.

Free Beer No Video - Guess the tapeheads finally wised up! Anyway, that's what their flyer says. Artists Television Access 992 Valencia 8:00 p.m. - midnight. \$5

The Chosen Many - You too can be one of the victims. See Mary Wings and Justin Bond in DIVINE VICTIM: theater, music, fashion, and the kitchen sink. Red Dora's Bearded Lady, 485-14th St. 8 p.m.

Sunday, July 4

Hooray For The Rap, White, And Blue - KUSF 90.3 on your FM dial will be broadcasting more rap than you can shake a firecracker at.

Local talent will perform live. 1 pm to midnight. Listen, it's free. The revolution will be radioized.

Jazz It Up - Help Ben Goldberg, clarinet, and Kenny Wollesen, drums, celebrate the release of their new album. Radio Valencia, 1199 Valencia St. 8:30 p.m. \$5.

Monday, July 5

Raw and Seasoned Performances - New and veteran performers strut their stuff at the Marsh including pieces by Armen Dilanchian, Juliette Marshall, David Roche and Jason E. Sarrow. The Marsh

1062 Valencia St. 8:30 p.m. \$6 Call 282-6024

Tuesday, July 6

Wandering Kosher Thespians Face the Music - A Traveling Jewish Theatre presents The Real World: A Theatrical Confrontation With Music written and performed by founding member Albert Greenberg and directed by Helen Stoltzfus. Benefit for Teatro Mision. Mission Cultural Center 2866 Mission St. 8:30 p.m. \$7 sliding scale. Call 695-6970.

Wednesday, July 7

Gypsy Jamboree - Evening of Indian gypsy dance and music ranging from ancient to modern and folk to classical. Guest artists include: Asako Tamayo performing Northern India classical dance; Sanxe Lovejis sings sacred Sufi texts (can you say that 5 times really fast?); and lots more all at the Marsh. 1062 Valencia St. 8:30 pm. \$6. Call 641-0235. Repeat performance on July 14.

Thursday, July 8

Chariots of Feet - Dance performance by those venerable folks, the Hittite empire. Theater Artaud 450 Florida St. 8:00 p.m. \$10.50 - \$19.00. (Hittites don't come cheap!) Call 621-7797 for a better explanation than we can give you here. Through July 11th.

Friday, July 9

Worth Looking Up Again - Skirts! Four stand up ladies do improv and sketch comedy. Held over! But not over their heads. The Marsh. 1062 Valencia St. 10:30 pm. \$7. Call 641-0235.

Saturday, July 10

Adopt A Pussy - Cat adoption fare in front of Old Wives' Tales. 1009 Valencia St. 1 - 5 pm. Free. Call 863-7527.

Don't Opt for the Top - Top optional, dress optional, cross-dress event. Featuring Joie Cooke, noted morbid poet; Gilles St. Jacques, multi-media transsexual event, and the always awful Blood Circus Puppet Show. Kommotion 2779 16th St. 10:00 p.m. \$3-4 sliding scale. Call 861-6423

Getting Knocked Up (Not!) - The ever-popular SF Mime Troupe's Second Stage presents Larry Pisoni's KNOCKED UP, a comedy about the realities of getting knocked around. For teens. Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission St. 2 p.m. \$3-5. 821-1155. Also July 11, 24 & 25, 31, and 8/1.

Mexicanos Sin Fronteras - Come dance the night away with the Guapachosisimo group LOS COMPAS while you dine on typical dishes and drinks from Mexico and, all at the same time, support civil rights for immigrants to the Bay Area and in Mexico. Capp St. Center, 362 Capp St. 9 p.m. \$8. Tickets available at Cafe Macondo (863-6517), Modern Times (282-9246), Pena del Sur (550-1101), and Imprenta Maciel (648-3553).

Sunday, July 11

Let's Play Electric Post Office - Tutorial on E-mail and mail programs commonly found on Internet computers. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Monday, July 12

Latin Actin' - Learn Spanish while you take acting classes. Latin American teachers with acting experience will teach you Spanish and take you on theater tours, show and discuss movies, and more. Mas Media. Classes Mon through Fri from 6-8:00 pm, and on Tues & Thurs also from 4-6:00 pm. Saturday classes available. \$10/hour. Call 626-1875 or 861-8117.

Wednesday, July 14

Flamenco Fans - Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco presents a lecture/demonstration on the art of this spirited dance form as a preview to the Stern Grove Flamenco concert on July 18. Community Music Center 544 Capp St. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free. 647-6015.

Thursday, July 15

Steamy Safe Sax - Lecture/demonstration featuring recent works and works in progress by the Rova Saxophone Quartet. Community Music Center 544 Capp St. 5:30 p.m. Free. Call 647-6015.

Daring Dance - Scott Wells has choreographed more hold and interactive dance featuring himself, Keith Hennesy and members of his Dance Company. Part of Sum-

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Jurassic Lark in the Mission - Help make a giant dinosaur and its prehistoric world! For children of all ages. Mission Library, 3359-24th St. 3:30 p.m. 695-5090.

Friday, July 16

Viva Venceremos! - Santiago Carlos Henriquez Consalvi, Director of the internationally acclaimed Radio Venceremos in El Salvador, stops in SF during a U.S. tour to raise funds for a new transmitter and archive of Venceremos broadcasts. Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission St. 6 - 8 p.m. Donation \$5 - \$10. Call 821-1155.

Folksy Friday - The Vidalias sing their songs at Radio Valencia, 1199 Valencia St. 6-9 p.m. No cover.

But 13 is Jail Bait - Let the Bay Area Intimate Theatres (BAIT) Fringe Festival force 13 short one-act plays down your throat. All by Bay Area independent theaters. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. Friday and Saturday, 7-11 p.m. Sunday, July 18 from 1-6 p.m. Each play \$7 / 3 plays \$18 / 6 plays \$35. 821-1155.

Saturday, July 17

Late Night with Josh Kornbluth - Josh Kornbluth, comedic master of improvisation, returns to the Marsh with his fifth work-in-progress monologue. This time he focuses on college and calculus. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, 10:30 p.m. \$7 at the door and at TIX. Call 641-0235. Also July 3, 10, 24, & 31.

Sunday, July 18

Slicing Life - Escritores Salvadorenos Unidos' Summer Poetry Series presents A SLICE OF LIFE with readings by Lucha Corpi, Juvenal Acosta, and Neeli Cherkovski. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 5 p.m. 821-1155.

Monday, July 19

Popol Vuh To You Too - Dennis Tedlock, the author of "Breath on the Mirror: Mythic Voices and Visions of the Living Maya," takes you on his journeys to the Maya countrysides of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize. Modern Times. 888 Valencia. 7:30 pm. Free. Call 282-9246.

Tuesday, July 20

Jerks for Jordan - Healing seminar and tupperware party for those afflicted with the cankers of the current administration but still interested in leftovers. Picaro Cafe 7:30 p.m. Ask for Mario.

Wednesday, July 21

Modern Readings - Celebrate Lesbian and Gay Literature Month by sharing your poetry

and prose, or just by listening. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Friday, July 23

Little Willie and the Blue Room Boys - Live jazz at Radio Valencia. 1199 Valencia St. 6-9 p.m. Free.

Saturday, July 24

Gender Bender Bash - Drag and butch ball, must be cross-dressed to enter. Improv by the Flash Point Players, music by Mini Pearl Necklace and videos by 99 cents Queer Video Fest. Emergency wardrobe available for uncrossed dressers. Kommotion 2779 16th St. 10:00 p.m. \$5/\$4 members. Call 861-6423

Sunday, July 25

Goldberg (Jazz) Variations - Join Ben Goldberg's Big Group with Graham Connah, Alex Candelaria, Trevor Dunn, and guests for a musical evening at Radio Valencia, 1199 Valencia St. 8:30 p.m. \$5.

Literary Latin America - Latin American Theatre Artists presents MAGDALENA CANTATA by Jose Garcia as part of its series of promising new Latino work staged by professional actors and directors. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 8 p.m. Free. 821-1155.

Monday, July 26

Response to Rapes in the Balkans - Discussion on the international campaign to stop the systematic rape of women in the Balkans. Valencia Hall 523-A Valencia St. Summer supper at 6:45 p.m. (\$5 donations), meeting at 7:30 p.m. Call 864-1278

Tuesday, July 27

Latin American Night At The Stick - Join Centro Latino at Candlestick Park to watch the Giants beat the Dodgers. Homeplate ceremony recognizing 10th annual Latin American Night. \$12 for pre-registration. 7:30 pm. Call 861-8758.

Thursday, July 29

Summerfest '93 - Cheryl Chaddick performs as part of the New Performance Gallery's Summerfest that runs throughout July. New Performance Gallery, 3153-17th St. 8 p.m. \$10. 621-7797.

Saturday, July 31

Kids Stuff - Bay Area storyteller Tio Carlos Uncle Peace explores the magical world of children's folktales and modern fictions from near and far. Kids of all ages welcome. Modern Times. 888 Valencia. 3 pm. \$1 donation. Call 282-9246.

Techno, Schmechno - Don't believe the hype—the guitar lives. Six of the Bay Area's best solo guitarists perform in a marathon showcase: Charlie Hunter, Mirv, Joe Gore, Will Bernard, David Phillips, and Jim Campilongo. Kommotion 2779-16th St. 9:30 p.m. \$5/4 members. 861-6423.

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Believe you me, there are things I fear more than being homeless in San Francisco. Going on a drinking bender and waking up naked and satisfied next to an insurance salesman or having my eyeballs gouged out during a freak elevator accident; now that is scary...but walking the streets homeless doesn't bother me anymore. It's like, once you've been there a few times you get good at it. You find nooks and crannies, stray rooftops, hollow vehicles to crash out in at night...you get to know where all the good soup kitchens are. I've squatted in buildings here in the Mission that would have any Real Estate man creaming in his Calvin Kleins. I end up homeless a lot but I'm good at it and I don't believe in ownership of property. Maybe you can own your finger or your bra but you can't own land or animals just like you can't own another human being. I've paid enough rent and held enough shitty jobs to realize the meaning of a vicious cycle...dumb job, rent, and a few hours of freedom to sit back and dread going back to your dumb job. Sound familiar? It's a Landlords world out there. Simple things like taking a shit and a shower can become major dilemmas. Everything is geared so that you'll continue to shut up and keep on paying that rent. Shut up and deliver those memos. All the "decent" people smell like laundry and drink decafe lattes and talk about mortgage payments. When they find out you're homeless their faces drop. They offer condolences, get out the old violins. Their hearts may be in the right place but I spit on their pity. It's insulting. I would rather have them hate me than pity me. Believe it, I didn't start being homeless by choice, but now that I am, I can see that it's not that bad. And there are lots of people out here like me—people who're not crazy or drug addicts or lame; we should be proud we haven't become a part of the vicious cycle. So get over it and save the violins for the symphony. **EVELG**



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INFO: 552-7788

Marty

This was years ago, before Friday went to Israel, before Steve died, back when we still thought Marty's alcoholic escapades were funny. I'd known Marty in Boston; now he was here in San Francisco for a visit, but since my basement studio apartment was so tiny he was staying with my friend Steve on Precita Avenue. One night I was sitting around the basement having a few beers and a joint with Friday, a mutual friend, when the call came from Steve:

"You'd better get down here quick. Marty's been drinking for two days solid and he's out of control! He knows you guys better than he knows me; maybe you can calm him down."

Steve's house was set far back from the street, with a high porch overlooking a driveway in which the wreck of an old defunct Ford was parked. When Friday and I pulled up at the house in Friday's beat-up station wagon, we saw Steve standing nervously on the porch with the dog, and Marty lying still, apparently deceased, face-down on the crumpled hood of the Ford in his underpants. As we got out of the wagon Marty did a Lazarus; leaping up and giggling like a fiend, he ran up the stairs to the porch and stood there with his head thrown back, howling "WOOP! WOOP! WOOP!" at the moon. There was blood clotted in his bippie hair, dark blood streaming from a galaxy of cuts on his face and chest and legs. Steve backed away from him; so did the dog.

"Hey Marty!" I called, "what's going on?"

He grinned, climbed on the railing — amazing he could balance there in his condition. He spread his arms, and with a keening "woooooop!" executed a graceful swan dive off the porch, a perfect arc that terminated on the hood of the Ford with a sickening thud of flesh on metal. "Woop!" He spit out a white chip of tooth. "Woop! Woop! Woop!"

"He's been doing that for half an hour," Steve said, coming down the steps to join us. Marty rolled over on his back and wooped at the moon. The dog whined and cowered behind us.

"Didn't you try to stop him?" I said to Steve.

"Sure, at first. The crazy bastard bit me! See?" He showed us the tooth marks on his arm. The dog licked his hand.

Friday laughed; Marty echoed him. "Hey Friday, is that you? And Frank? Woopity woop! What are you guys doing here?"

"We thought we'd take you for a little drive," I said, the three of us lifting Marty off the hood like some ridiculous Christ from the cross. He let his body go limp in our arms. "Okay, you got our attention," I said.

"Aw, you guys are the greatest! Where are we going? Disneyland?"

"That's right," said Friday. "We want to see you take a header off the Matterhorn."

"Oh boy oh boy!"

"Don't encourage him," I muttered into Friday's ear as we arranged the bleeding limbs of the malt liquor martyr on the back seat of the wagon.

"Woop! I heard that! Woop! Woop! Woop!"

Steve put the dog in the house; then he and I sat on either side of Marty to prevent him jumping out of the moving car as Friday drove us around the city to look at the pretty lights, trolling for Beatles songs on the radio. Singing along with the Beatles usually calmed Marty down. Not this time.

"Obla-di, Obla-da, life goes on, braaaaa!"

"Woop! Woop! Woop! Woop! Woop! Woop! Woop!"

At the intersection of Market and Castro we stopped for a red light. Marty was too quick for us — too slippery with sweat and blood. Before we knew what was happening he had the door open on Steve's side and slipped out like a seal into the Frisco night. We caught a bare glimpse of him streaking down Castro Street in his white underpants, then the light turned green and we had to get moving. Friday circled the block; we drove down Castro and all the side streets but there was no sign of Marty. We stopped to ask a man in a lumberjack shirt, "Have you seen a guy running down the street in his underwear, going 'woop woop woop'?"

"Ah, no, Dorothy, but I've been searching all my life!"

We drove around for about an hour before



giving up. Actually, we never did find out what happened to Marty in the Castro, during what we later referred to as his "lost hours".

The next morning, 7:00 a.m., the phone woke me up.

"I'm in jail."

"Aw Jesus, Marty."

He wanted me to bring him down some clothes; also his glasses, which he'd had the foresight to remove before his diving exhibition.

"Why didn't you call Steve?"

"Well, I didn't want to impose, after I bit him and all..."

Friday wouldn't answer his phone so I had to take a bus to Steve's house, then another bus to the city jail on Bryant Street with Marty's clothes and glasses in a brown paper bag. At the jail, a guard checked the bag for weapons; Marty's unwashed socks almost qualified.

"I'd like to get these things to my friend."

"That's not my department. Ask the officer inside."

The officer inside turned to stone as soon as I mentioned Marty's name. "He's wearing nothing but his Fruit-o'-the-Looms! In jail, with Godonlyknows what kinda kinky sex offenders!" I pleaded, but the guard stared straight ahead pretending not to hear me.

Finally I got to talk with Marty over a white telephone, the two of us separated by a grimy sheet of bullet-proof glass. His wounds had turned to scabs; he shivered in the little stall. "They won't let me give you your stuff!" I told him. "What the hell did you do to piss them off so much?"

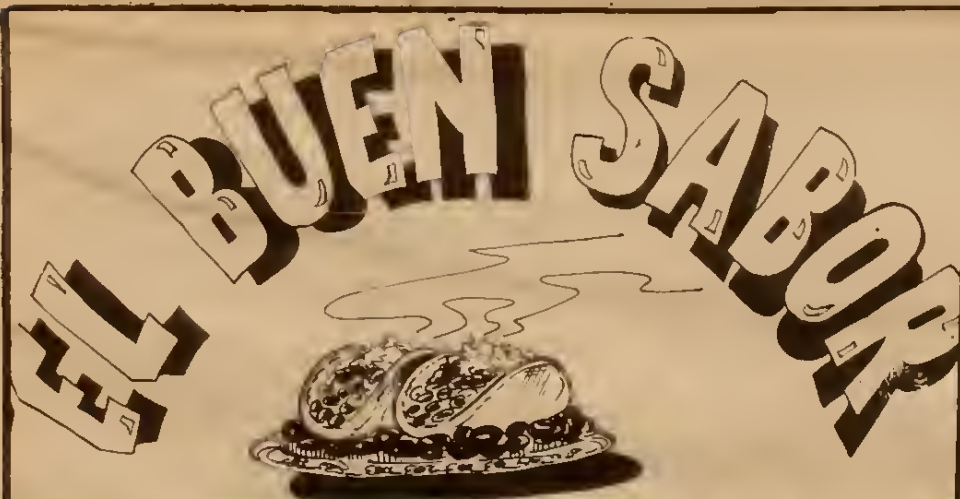
"Well, the last thing I remember is smashing an electric typewriter on the floor in the police station..." He was a strong boy. He even managed to laugh at the look on my face.

The next day they released him on his own recognizance, in his underwear. He had to walk from the jail to Steve's house barefoot, against a cold March wind, half-blind over too many mean streets. A week or two later, on St. Patrick's Day, I was over at Steve's with a six-pack of Mickeys and we were contemplating going to an Irish bar to scope out the bonnie lasses. We were pathetic. "You want to come along?" I asked Marty, realizing that a few beers were not going to trigger a repeat performance; it was only when he felt lonely, and retaliated by drinking for days on end, that he achieved a State of Woop.

Marty thought about it for a minute, picking little green scabs off his face and flicking them at the dog. "An Irish bar? On St. Patrick's Day? No way, Jose...that's strictly amateur night!"

We laughed. Of course Marty was only kidding about not coming with us, him confident we'd spot him money for beers. I don't know how many times we told the story of the Night of the Living Woop that blarney night, with various omissions and embellishments. It got a lot of laughs, but like I said, that was years ago, before Friday went to Israel, before Steve died and Marty sank so low he may as well have, back when I still thought shit like this was just plain funny.

Frank Stauf



FOOD TO GO

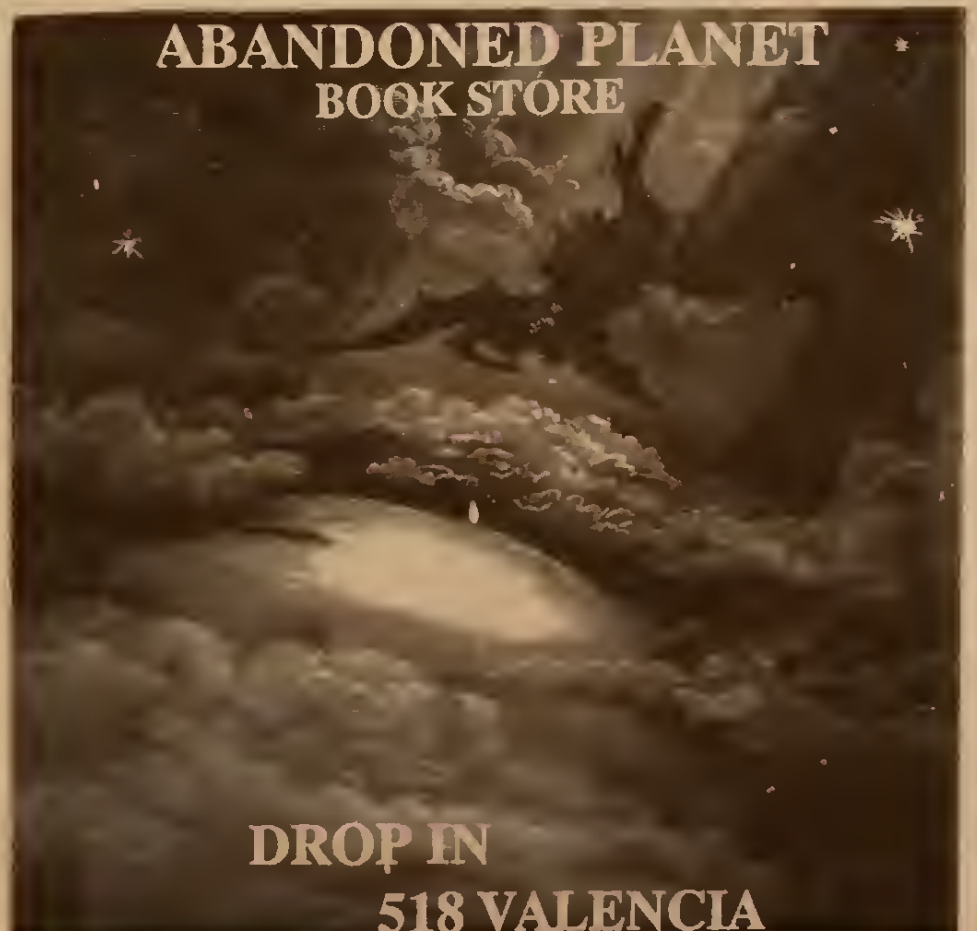
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